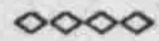


PROVE IT NOW

In an editorial in a recent issue Leslie's Weekly says: "Suppose?—Tariff revision should be made the leading issue in the democratic platform in the presidential campaign next year? Suppose the necessities of life at the time should continue to remain on the present high and unnatural plane, and that it should be charged that our industries sell their products at lower prices abroad than at home, and that the reports of Corporation Commissioner Smith on the Standard Oil company prove the charge? Suppose a severe business recession should leave many persons without employment in the presidential year? Suppose democratic newspapers and orators should charge the high prices and the business recession to the protective tariff, repeat the stale falsehood that 'the tariff is the mother of all trusts,' and make that the burning question of the campaign? Suppose republican trust 'busters,' who are magnifying the trust issue and imperiling the national prosperity—on the achievement of which the party's success has been and must be won—should attempt to deny these fallacies and falsehoods? Would they have time to do it satisfactorily, in the present inflamed temper of an inconsiderate and thoughtless people, before the close of the polls on November 3, 1908? If not, what would happen, and to whom?"

Well, we know one thing that would happen to Leslie's Weekly. Unless it secured a new corps of writers it would be unable to make its regular appearance after it had been announced that the system for which Leslie's Weekly has so long been a servile spokesman had met defeat at the polls.

But why not take time by the forelock? The tariff question is being discussed right now. Why not begin the work of proving that the tariff is not the mother of any trust; that the foreigner pays the tax; that a high protective tariff is the "best expression of pure and patriotic statesmanship?" Why not undertake to show that there is no relation between the fact that the republican party gets its campaign funds from the tariff barons and the fact that the republican congress fails to heed the demand made from the rank and file of its party that the tariff be revised for the benefit of the people? Why not prove that republican leaders are serious when they insist that "the tariff should be revised by its friends?" The republican congress will meet in December next. Why not revise the tariff then—say just enough of a revision to show that the republican leaders are sufficiently free from the chains binding them to "the system" to even open the subject for debate upon the floors of congress.



A KINGLY REBUKE

King Edward of Great Britain will receive the commendation of all clean minded men for his protest, publicly made, against the singing of indecent and suggestive songs in public amusement resorts. King Edward and members of the British nobility visited a cafe in Marienbad, and when a singer perpetrated a suggestive song the entire party arose and left. It is gratifying to know that this example was followed by all the Englishmen and Americans present. Suggestiveness both in drama and in song is becoming altogether too common, and it is high time that clean minded men make protest. It is related of President Grant that he once rebuked a man who started to tell a suggestive story, prefacing it with the remark, "There are no ladies present." "But there are gentlemen present," said President Grant. The story remained untold to that particular group.



REQUIRES EXPERT DODGING

It is amusing to watch the gyrations of the administration press in its efforts to denounce the paper trust without referring to the one thing that makes a paper trust possible—the tariff on wood pulp and print paper. It requires more than the usual amount of "guff" and the editorial advocates of a high tariff deal in that commodity in large degree.

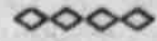


NAME ONE GOOD TRUST

In his speech at Denver, Colo., Secretary Taft said that Mr. Bryan wanted to destroy the trusts, and added: "If he means by this that he wants the trusts dissolved into their constituent parts, we do not agree with him. We want the good ones continued and the bad ones abolished and all properly regulated."

Will Secretary Taft, or some of those who

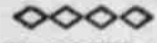
believe with him, name the good trusts? Will he name one good trust? If the secretary means what he says when he declares that he is opposed to dissolving the trusts "into their constituent parts" then will he explain why he did not protest when the Roosevelt administration proceeded against the Northern Pacific merger—a proceeding which had for its purpose the dissolution of the Northern Pacific trust "into its constituent parts?"



MR. TAFT ON "TRUSTS"

Republican national platforms have been habitually silent on the subject of "trusts," carefully omitting that word. And now comes Secretary of War Taft and declares that there are "unlawful trusts" which he would restrain. It is logically deduced, therefore, that Secretary Taft believes that there are "lawful trusts" which he would not restrain. Republican leaders and organs often speak of "good trusts" and "bad trusts," terms that mean exactly what Secretary Taft means when he intimates that there are "lawful trusts" by declaring the existence of "unlawful trusts" which he would restrain.

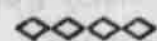
Now will Secretary Taft please name one "lawful trust?" Or will some one of his many numerous friends kindly point out one "good trust?"



OF COURSE

In an editorial entitled "Roosevelt is His Own Pathfinder" Leslie's Weekly denounces as absurd the assertion of the Chattanooga Times and other democratic papers that Mr. Roosevelt has adopted some of the "twice defeated" democratic policies. By way of removing all doubt concerning Mr. Roosevelt's originality on railway regulation Leslie's says that railway rate regulation "was urged by Roosevelt before the convention of 1904 met."

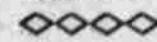
Of course Leslie's Weekly does not know that in the democratic platform of 1900 and in the democratic platform of 1896 railway rate regulation was suggested.



SOUNDS LIKE '96

In his speech at Provincetown, Mass., Mr. Roosevelt said that it is now a question as to "who shall rule this government." He said that this contest was between the people and "a few ruthless and determined men whose wealth makes them particularly formidable, because they hide behind the breastworks of corporate organization."

If memory is not at fault we heard something like that during the 1896 campaign. But as we recall it Mr. Roosevelt was then doing battle with those who "hide behind the breastworks of corporate organization."



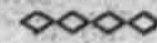
"BABY CORN"

In the "Home Department" of The Commoner's August 16 issue appeared a charming little poem entitled "Baby Corn." The poem was credited "Unidentified." A reader sends the information that the poem was written by Mrs. Lydia Avery Coonley-Ward, of Wyoming, N. Y. The Commoner is glad to make this fact known as the author is certainly entitled to all possible credit for the production.



LOOK OUT!

The Indianapolis News (republican) says: "Decidedly there is too much talking. And Mr. Bonaparte is not the only offender." Plainly the editor of the Indianapolis News is moving rapidly towards the "nature faker" column.



FUNNY

The New York Evening Post does not pose as a humorist but it lays claim in that direction when it refers to the Washington, D. C., Post as a "democratic paper."



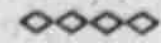
ABBOT'S LETTERS

Willis J. Abbot, whose Washington letters are a regular feature of The Commoner, has begun furnishing to patrons of the American Press association a weekly democratic letter in plates. These letters cover Washington news, gossip and political argument. They make two columns each ready set.

Mr. Abbot's long experience with the Hearst newspapers as editorial writer and political correspondent, and his identification with democratic politics as chief of the national com-

mittee press bureau in 1900 and otherwise, peculiarly fit him for this work.

The letters may be obtained by addressing the American Press Association, 45 Park Place, New York City, or any of its numerous branches.



SILENT ON THE TARIFF

A newspaper writer complains "one may search the speech of Mr. Roosevelt at Provincetown with a microscope and yet find nothing bearing upon the tariff issue."

Ultra-protectionists have never felt that they could at all times depend upon Mr. Roosevelt. They know what many people have forgotten, that at one time—and not so very many years ago, either—Mr. Roosevelt was one of the conspicuous members of the New York Free Trade league. When he resigned from membership in that body he wrote that he was "a republican first and a free trader afterward." Some of the ultra-protectionists doubtless suspect that Mr. Roosevelt felt very much at home in the position taken through Secretary Taft's free trade order issued in 1905. They remember that when Mr. Roosevelt wrote the "Life of Thomas H. Benton" he had something to say concerning protection. On pages 66 and 67 of that book will be found the following: "The vote on the protective tariff law of 1828 furnished another illustration of the solidarity of the west. New England had abandoned her free trade position since 1824 and the north went strongly for the new tariff; the southern sea-coast states, except Louisiana, opposed it bitterly; and the bill was carried by the support of the western states, both the free and the slave. This tariff bill was the first of the immediate irritating causes which induced South Carolina to go into the nullification movement. Benton's attitude on the measure was that of a good many other men who, in their public capacity, are obliged to appear as protectionists, but who lack his frankness in stating their reasons. He utterly disbelieved in and was opposed to the principles of the bill, but as it had bid for and secured the interest of Missouri by a heavy duty on lead, he felt himself forced to support it; and he so announced his position. He simply went with his state precisely as did Webster. The latter in following Massachusetts' change of front and supporting the tariff of 1828, turned a full and complete somersault. Neither the one nor the other was to blame. Free traders are apt to look at the tariff from a sentimental standpoint, but it is in reality purely a business matter, and should be decided solely on the grounds of expediency. Political economists have pretty generally agreed that protection is vicious in theory and harmful in practice; but if the majority of the people interested wish it, and it affects only themselves there is no earthly reason why they should not be allowed to try the experiment to their heart's content. The trouble is that it rarely does affect only themselves; and in 1828, the evil was peculiarly aggravating on account of the unequal way in which the proposed law would affect different sections. It purported to benefit the rest of the country, but it undoubtedly worked real injury to the planter states and there is small ground for wonder that the irritation over it in the region so affected should have been intense."

Perhaps Mr. Roosevelt has never changed his views on this subject. His position may have been like "that of a good many other men who, in their public capacity, are obliged to appear as protectionists." Perhaps Mr. Roosevelt has all along believed with the political economists who, according to Mr. Roosevelt himself, have "pretty generally agreed that protection is vicious in theory and harmful in practice."



THE VAGRANT

He came unto the door of heaven,
Free as of old and gay;
"What hast thou done," the porter cried
"That thou should'st pass this way?"
"Hast fed the hungry, clothed the poor!"
The vagrant shook his head.
"I drank my wine and I was glad,
But I did not give them bread."
"Hast prayed upon the altar steps?"
"Nay, but I loved the sun."
"Hast wept?" "The blossoms of the spring,
I gathered every one."
"But what fair deed can'st thou present?
Like light, one radiant beam?"
"I robbed no child of his fairy tale,
No dreamer of his dream."

—Appleton's Magazine.