

Nashville railroad, another by the Santa Fe, etc., etc. Other papers are controlled by franchise-holding corporations and used to defend anything that such corporations do. In North Carolina recently a lawsuit developed the fact that a paper had been subsidized by the Southern railway, and if the expense account of the leading railroads could be examined, a great many editorials could be explained.

It takes a lawsuit to bring out the facts, and the prosecution of John R. Walsh has brought out a very interesting fact in connection with his paper. On December 17 the press dispatches reporting his trial say that "John H. Bradshaw, formerly editor of the Chicago Chronicle, testified that the paper was operated at a loss from the time it was founded until October, 1904, at which time he said the deficit was approximately one million and a half."

The report adds: "It is contended by the prosecution that from that time until the suspension of the paper it was run at a loss of twenty thousand dollars a month."

It will be remembered that this was one of the democratic dailies which left the party in 1896 and supported the republican ticket. It was so interested in the national honor and in an honest dollar that it deserted the party after the adoption of the Chicago platform. The testimony in the Walsh case shows how consistent the owner of the paper was in his effort to defend honesty and honor. Prior to the convention of 1904 the Chronicle insisted upon the nomination of a conservative democrat and demanded the repudiation of Bryanism. After the convention it became a straight-out republican paper and so continued until its suspension. The democratic party was very much relieved by its desertion, for its editorials were an injury to any party that it pretended to support, but the testimony of Mr. Bradshaw is interesting as showing the manner in which the paper was run. Mr. Walsh could not have afforded to sink a million and a half of dollars in the paper or to run it at a loss of twenty thousand a month simply as a business enterprise, but he thought it worth that much to him for the defense of the enterprises in which he was engaged. He could sandbag anyone who dared to take the side of the people, and he could praise every man who could be bought or intimidated into a betrayal of a public trust. The Chronicle was not a business enterprise; it was an adjunct to Mr. Walsh's various business enterprises if the word business can be used to describe an enterprise conducted as Mr. Walsh conducted his enterprises.

The Chronicle is cited as an illustration of the subsidized paper, and there are a number of them in the United States. As a rule they do not have a large circulation—their editorial policy does not appeal to the confidence of people, but they can be used to abuse, denounce, misrepresent and libel such public servants as carry conscience into their work or seek to be faithful to their constituents. It is fortunate that the inside history of the Chronicle is being made public, for it furnishes an explanation of a good deal that is going on in the newspaper field. The Chronicle might have been a valuable paper and a money-maker but for the fact that its editorial policy alienated all except those who were venal enough to approve of it, or stupid enough to be deceived by it, and it is complimentary to Chicago and Illinois that the venal and the stupid were not numerous enough to make the paper self-supporting.



NEBRASKA IN EVIDENCE

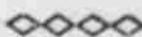
Nebraska is coming to the front. It used to be that they thought our state too far west to be of political importance and too small to present a national candidate, but times have changed. The press dispatches the other day announced that Governor Magoon, of Cuba, a Nebraskan, was being considered as a presidential candidate. While the governor has asked his friends not to mention his name in that connection, still the fact that he has been thought of in that connection shows that Nebraska is on the political map; and then, too, we have an abundance of vice presidential timber. Only the other day the papers were announcing Hughes and Burkett, the name of one of Nebraska's senators being linked with that of the governor of New York. A little while before Hon. A. R. Talbot was spoken of as a possible nominee for vice president. Mr. Talbot has long been prominent in Nebraska politics, and is now the head of the Modern Woodman Order of the United States. How would Taft and Talbot do for a republican ticket? And then there is Governor

The Commoner.

Sheldon; his name has been mentioned. What would you think of Cannon and Sheldon?—that could be changed to Cannon and Shellthem. And why should we overlook Senator Brown? What is the matter with Knox and Brown? Knox was attorney general of the United States and Brown was attorney general of Nebraska. Then there is John L. Webster, who might restore the parity in Nebraska if Foraker were nominated.

Let it be known that Nebraska stands ready to furnish an associate for any republican who may be nominated for president, and she has a republican who would make a better race than some of the candidates who have been mentioned for the presidency. The west is coming to the front; it is no longer the great American desert whether you consider it from the standpoint of crops or politics.

Hurrah for Nebraska!



A FEW STRAWS

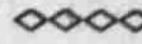
The Commoner is gratified to find that its position is in harmony with the sentiment of the business men of Lincoln on several important questions. Lincoln, as the readers of this paper know, is strongly republican, and on the political questions which have divided the parties in the past the republicans have largely outvoted the democrats. On the new questions that are arising, however, there seems to be a re-alignment and the sentiment is becoming more democratic.

As an illustration of this, attention is called to a vote recently taken in the Commercial club of Lincoln. This club has about six hundred members, and the membership is almost entirely composed of business men and professional men. Recently the secretary sent out a list of subjects upon which the opinion of the members was asked. Three of these questions have been discussed in The Commoner, namely—the postal savings bank, the guaranteed bank and the asset currency. The vote on these three questions is as follows:

For postal savings bank.....	250
Against postal savings bank.....	91
For guaranteed bank.....	316
Against guaranteed bank.....	32
For asset currency.....	50
Against asset currency.....	261

It will be noticed that the vote is almost unanimous in favor of the guaranteed bank, a system which The Commoner has strongly endorsed. The vote is almost unanimous, too, against an asset currency, which The Commoner has strongly denounced. The majority for the postal savings bank is not as much as it is for the guaranteed bank, and this, too, is in harmony with The Commoner's position. While it favors the postal savings bank in places where there is no guaranteed bank, it believes that the guaranteed bank has advantages over the postal savings bank. The position taken by the business men of Lincoln on these questions is very encouraging, and if their position can be taken as the position of business men elsewhere, the prospects of the democratic party are indeed bright, for it is quite certain that the republican leaders will not permit any real reforms to be accomplished, and it is evident that the business men of the country are tired of waiting for reforms. They want something done that will be helpful to the public, and it is becoming more and more evident that they will have to look to the democratic party for relief.

These votes are straws indicating the direction of public opinion.



A REVENUE TARIFF

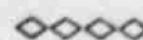
Opposed to the policy of protection for protection's sake stands the policy of a revenue tariff. While a twenty-five per cent tariff, levied for the purpose of raising revenue, gives the same protection in any particular schedule that a protective tariff of the same rate would give, there is a wide difference between the two systems. Under a revenue tariff the law is so drawn as to raise revenue, and the government stops collecting when it gets enough; under the protective system the schedules are dictated by the beneficiaries of the tariff, and may be so arranged that the people will bear a heavy burden and the treasury receive but little revenue, and those who fix the duties never know when to stop.

That a protective tariff law can be used to raise an industry to any desired height must be admitted, but a lever will not act without a fulcrum, and the masses have served as the

fulcrum and borne the pressure while a few have enjoyed the benefits.

The present tariff is not only indefensible in principle, indefensible as a matter of policy and indefensible on the ground of necessity, but it has exerted and still exerts a corrupting influence in politics. The government has been regarded as a private asset in business, and manufacturers have used the elections as a slot machine, putting in campaign contributions and the votes of employees and drawing out larger dividends. Public sentiment has been debauched and the public conscience seared. Tariff reform will not only reduce taxation and lead to the more equitable distribution of the proceeds of toll, but it will help to purify politics by restricting the government to its legitimate sphere of action, driving the lobbyists from the national capitol and reducing the campaign funds to reasonable proportions.

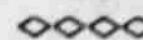
The substitution of a tariff levied for the purpose of raising revenue for a tariff levied primarily for the purpose of protection seems likely to be one of the important reforms that will come in the near future as a result of the present awakening.



REGULATION WILL BE EASIER

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says: "Mr. Bryan's plan of a government guaranty of national bank deposits to be supported by the banks themselves, is receiving a good deal of favorable comment from western papers, quite regardless of party. It is being urged, for example, that under such a policy the failure or suspension of the large bank at Kansas City would not have happened, since there would then have been no such extended withdrawal of deposits as had taken place on the circulation of dubious rumors. If the government should ever adopt such a plan, then in justice to the soundly-managed banks, which would be taxed to protect depositors in other banks, it would have to deal with the speculative institutions a little more effectively than heretofore."

Yes, and it will be easier to get effective regulation when there is joint liability. Now the good banks are opposed to necessary regulation because they think they do not need it.



CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

If the people paid the campaign expenses they would get more attention from the officials elected. For forty years the republican party has been bartering away legislation and immunity in return for campaign contributions and the people have had to foot the bills. It is cheaper to pay campaign expenses by direct appropriation than to pay through bad laws and lax administration.



PECUNIARY

It must strike the Christians of Germany as somewhat remarkable that the kaiser should give only pecuniary reason to support his peace policy. He does not oppose conquest on the ground that it would be morally wrong but only on the ground that it would not pay. On this low ground, however, as well as on higher ground, we can oppose all forms of colonialism.



HIGH FINANCE

To borrow money at three per cent and loan it to favored banks for nothing, that these banks may save the country by loaning the money out at a big rate—this may be high finance, but it will strike the average man as rather an expensive way of meeting an emergency. But it is Wall Street's way.



MONEY IN HIDING

The money in hoarding and hiding has been estimated at over one billion dollars. This not only reflects upon our bank management but enables us to estimate the enormous increase in the loanable capital that would come from a guarantee of banks which would draw this money into the banks and put it into the channels of trade.



NO BANKER'S TRUST

Some are advocating a guaranty of depositors by an association of banks, but this would make a bankers trust that would soon run all other banks out of business. The government should be the guarantor and then it can admit to the system all banks that will comply with the conditions.