

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Probably the foreigner pays the tax by "absent treatment."

Experts count on the completion of the Panama canal in 1915—if Uncle Sam's money holds out.

There is a growing feeling that congressmen are not earning that 50 per cent increase in salaries.

By the way, what has become of the old-fashioned tariff advocate who insisted that "the foreigner pays the tax?"

It would seem that some of Mark Twain's good Wall Street friends might have given him a tip when to get his money out.

Our sailors worked up a little riot in Rio, probably just to show the powers that be at home that they are not the whole naval works.

Administration organs loudly claim that President Roosevelt did not cause the panic. Perhaps not. But the protective tariff failed to prevent it.

The Paragraphers' Union is sure to go broke, now that a New Jersey man has married his mother-in-law and put a crimp in one of the union's best rules.

The report that one of our battleships had been blown up at Rio may have been founded on one of Admiral Evans' vocal explosions during a twinge of his rheumatism.

Secretary Taft is talking about our "generous altruistic spirit," referring to our Philippine policy. This is calculated to make the sugar, tobacco and cordage trusts smile gleefully.

Mr. Carnegie says there is no universal panacea for financial panics. Perhaps not, but if Mr. Carnegie would let go of his tariff graft for a while it might help the rest of us some.

The judge who presides at a scandalous murder trial in New York has excluded all women who are not reporters. The exclusion of all men who are not reporters would have helped some.

The St. Louis Times says "the more one hears of Oklahoma's new scheme for government the surer one is that the old reliable brand is good enough." The St. Louis Times' declaration will have the hearty support of a number of eminent Pennsylvanians.

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Michigan beet growers complain that the tariff-fed sugar trust is not paying a living price for beets. This merely shows that there are still some people who believe that the protective tariff is not wholly for the benefit of the trusts.

"Pennsylvania will surely go for Knox," exclaims an enthusiastic Pennsylvanian who is helping the Knox boom along. The country will also go for Knox if ever it gets an opportunity, but not in the way meant by the Pennsylvanian.

Representative Fordney's district delegates may not nominate Speaker Cannon for the presidency, but it seems that they accomplished the desired object when their election made a place for Mr. Fordney on the ways and means committee.

The Elgin National Watch company is about to discharge a thousand or two employes who are so nicely "protected" by the tariff which enables the Elgin Watch company to charge American dealers \$10.15 for the watch that is sold to English dealers for \$7.41.

"What does 1908 mean to you?" asks the Chicago Tribune. "Well, for one thing it means fifty-two pay days," gleefully replies the Columbia State. Our South Carolina contemporary should wake up. There will be fifty-three pay days in 1908—and five of them in February.

Of course it was reprehensible on the part of Admiral Brownson to put his pitiful experience of forty-six years in naval affairs against the wisdom and knowledge of naval affairs that Theodore Roosevelt acquired in a lifelong experience of about two years as assistant secretary of the navy.

IOWA DEMOCRATS

A Des Moines, Iowa, dispatch to the Lincoln (Neb.) News follows:

Iowa friends of W. J. Bryan are alert in his interest. They have formed an organization known as the Bryan Volunteers of Iowa. Local branches of the state organization will be formed in every county, township and precinct.

George F. Rinehart of Des Moines is the president of the Bryan Volunteers, T. J. Meals is the secretary and will be in charge of the state headquarters to be opened within a few days. Charles O'Donnell is the treasurer. President Rinehart has been authorized to select five members of an executive committee, of which himself and Secretary Meals will be members, also.

Mr. Meals started the movement in Des Moines and Iowa. He was assistant commissioner of Ohio under Governor J. B. Foraker and still retains a warm personal friendship with the distinguished Ohioan. But in 1896 he left the republican party and devoted himself to the organization of Bryan and silver clubs in Ohio. He has been one of the strongest supporters of the distinguished Nebraskan. A similar organization in Omaha has 1,200 members already.

The volunteers were organized as the result of the effort of Mr. Meals yesterday. A large meeting was held at the office of H. C. Evans last night to perfect the organization. Not only the president and other officers were elected, but a vice president for each district was chosen. These are:

First district—Niel Roberts, editor of Fort Madison Democrat.

Second district—W. R. Hart, attorney, Iowa City.

Third district—John B. Young, Waterloo.

Fourth district—A. J. Anders, banker, Oelwein.

Fifth district—C. D. Huston, ex-mayor of Cedar Rapids.

Sixth district—O. P. Myers, attorney, Newton.

Seventh district—John T. Mulvaney, attorney, Des Moines.

Eighth district—W. H. Robb, editor Creston American, Creston.

Ninth district—Dr. Donald Macrae, mayor of Council Bluffs.

Tenth district—W. I. Brannigan, editor Democrat, Emmetsburg.

Eleventh district—Perry Edgerton, Sheldon.

G. F. Rinehart presided at the meeting and Hubert Utterback acted as secretary. It was very enthusiastic. Among those in attendance and who became charter members were J. B. Sullivan, T. J. Meals, G. F. Rinehart, Charles O'Donnell, J. T. Mulvaney, H. G. Gue, J. N. Smith, James Nugent, Charles O. Holly, J. C. Hansen, I. M. Parsons, H. C. Evans, J. W. Cope-

land, J. R. Carpenter, A. K. Stewart, F. A. Mathis, E. T. Meredith, J. C. Likes, W. S. Carpenter, Hubert Utterback.

The following card will be circulated throughout the state immediately:

"I hereby agree to become a member of the Bryan Volunteers of Iowa, and pay to the treasurer of said organization the sum of \$5 on or before the first day of March, 1908. I further agree to secure at least one other person to join the Bryan Volunteers of Iowa who will sign an agreement similar to this."

In the declaration of principles adopted by the volunteers is the following summary of the purposes of the organization:

"The object of this organization shall be to advance the principles of democracy as taught by Thomas Jefferson, defended by Andrew Jackson, brought to the attention of the world by Abraham Lincoln, and advocated by W. J. Bryan. To that end our aim is to form a state wide club for men who believe that those principles are fundamental to good government. We invite all those who believe in the principles of W. J. Bryan and desire his election to the presidency of the United States to unite with us in this movement irrespective of their past political affiliations.

"County organizations shall be subsidiary to the state organization and shall assist in advancing the objects of this organization as above outlined under the direction of the state organization. They shall be officered by a president, secretary and treasurer, and shall remit to the state organization \$2 for each member, and shall retain \$3 which shall be employed in accomplishing the work of the organization as above outlined."

The volunteers will aid the Jefferson club, of which H. C. Evans is president, to make the Jefferson club banquet early in April a great success. It is planned to lay 1,000 covers if a hall large enough can be found.

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEES

The following dispatch is from Huron South Dakota: "The democratic state central committee last night voted to hold the first convention in Rapid City, and the second in Mitchell. The proposed nomination of Bryan was endorsed."

The following dispatch was carried by the Associated Press under date of St. Paul, January 28: "A special to the Pioneer Press from Grand Forks, N. D., says that the democratic state committee of North Dakota today decided that the national convention to elect delegates to the democratic state convention should be held in Grand Forks on March 25. The committee declared for the nomination of William J. Bryan for president and of Governor Johnson of Minnesota for vice president. At the beginning of the meeting many questioned the propriety of the committee endorsing a presidential candidate, but after it had been argued that the party in North Dakota should go on record in favor of Bryan, and thus put an end to reports circulated in the east that it was opposed to his nomination, the Bryan resolution carried."

WEST VIRGINIA DEMOCRATS

The following explains itself: "Charleston, W. Va., January 30, 1908.—Hon W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.: On motion of Senator Campbell democratic joint caucus of senate and house unanimously and enthusiastically endorse movement to nominate you for president. A. E. Kenney, Chairman; C. M. Wezel, Secretary."

PRESIDENT'S CALL TO ARMS

(Continued from Page 5)

of the democracy of which we boast? "What better are we than Russia? When a president of the United States will descend to such indecent slander and other assaults of inuendo upon the honor of his fellow citizens, whose reputation for honor and high moral ideals are as firmly established as his own, we are left to one of several possible inferences.

"We will try to take the one that is the most charitable."

CONGRATULATIONS

Speaking in the house following the reading of the message Senator Adams (dem.) of Georgia said:

"I congratulate the country on the vigorous democracy our president has exhibited in his message today, and I want to congratulate the republicans upon their belated and perfunctory applause following the great outburst on this side."

The comment was applauded by democratic members.