

Kiefer, a member of congress, in which he said that he was for Taft and did not believe that if elected he would "too closely follow Roosevelt's ideas." It will be remembered that these reports greatly disturbed Mr. Taft and his managers and they took pains to say that the circular from the Taft headquarters had been issued by a subordinate at the Columbus office.

Now the Omaha Bee, perhaps the ablest and most faithful of Mr. Taft's western organs, quotes from the New York Commercial-Advertiser this paragraph:

"As to the 'me too,' charge it became dead and showed not even mechanical life when it appeared that with respect to the Roosevelt policies Governor Hughes, Senator Knox, Speaker Cannon, Vice President Fairbanks and the others were quite as much for them as Secretary Taft."

Mr. Roosevelt must be gratified, indeed, to learn that his preferred candidate for the republican nomination is as enthusiastically in favor of the Roosevelt policies as Messrs. Knox, Cannon and Fairbanks are. With this assurance that promised hunting trip to Alaska need not be delayed long after March 4, 1909. The country—and the Roosevelt policies—are certainly safe.



#### HIDING BEHIND LABOR

The Hepburn bill which links together a little clause for the relief of labor and a big paragraph for the benefit of the trusts ought not to deceive the people at large. Why should relief to labor be made dependent upon favors granted to the industrial trusts? The republican leaders recognize that the anti-trust sentiment is growing, and they have fallen in with the plan of the trust magnates which seems to be to hold the laboring men between them and the fire. This is cowardly and ought not to deceive the laboring men. They are entitled to relief; the anti-trust law was not intended for associations of wage-earners or farmers. These associations between men who toil are associations for the protection of their own wages or the products of their own toil, while the trusts are combinations of capital owned for the purpose of cornering the market and controlling the price of other peoples' products. Let each stand upon its own merits. The laboring men are entitled to a separate bill protecting their rights. If the trusts are entitled to any relief, let that relief be put in a separate bill so that it can be voted upon and discussed by itself. The republican leaders confess their double dealing when they refuse to give the public a chance to vote upon the two subjects separately.



#### SPEAKING OF STUMBLING BLOCKS

The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch concludes an editorial relating to the "anti-Bryan movement" in this words: "If ever there was a convention where the power of the uninstructed delegate will be great, not only in the choice of the candidate, but in writing the platform, it will be at Denver. The appreciation of this fact is the stumbling block in the way of those who want no deliberation by the representatives of the people in convention assembled."

But the appreciation of the fact that certain special interests are seeking undue power through uninstructed delegates may suggest to the rank and file of the party the importance of making their instructions to their representatives at Denver somewhat explicit.

An expression of the desire of the rank and file, through instructions to delegates, may prove to be the stumbling block in the way of those who would make the national convention the master, rather than the servant of the party and who would make the party the plaything of predatory interests rather than the champion of the public welfare.



#### IOWA'S JOKE

It must have been a practical joker who wrote the platform recently adopted by the republicans in Iowa. The platform says: "We declare unequivocally for protection as the cardinal principle of the republican party and we affirm our unalterable purpose to maintain it." This is the introduction, not very encouraging to a tariff reformer, but behold what follows: "Events have confirmed the wisdom of the makers of the national platform of 1904 wherein the party pledged readjustment of rates of duty only when conditions so changed that the public interest demanded their altera-

tion. In accordance with this declaration of four years ago, the republican party of Iowa endorses the declaration of the Ohio republican platform of this year in behalf of revision of the tariff by a special session of next congress, etc."

What sarcasm there is in pointing to the promise made in the platform of 1904, which has not been kept, as a basis for a new promise which the party has no intention of keeping. Or possibly the Iowa joker intended to put the emphasis upon the word only. If so, the platform was not a promise to readjust the tariff when conditions changed, but merely a promise that there would be no reduction before that time. The platform does not say that the time has arrived for a reduction or that there will be any reduction. Referring to its promise that there shall be no readjustment until conditions change, it endorses a revision of the tariff maintaining the principle of protection, etc. Now Secretary Taft tells us that revision means the raising of some schedules and the lowering of others, without telling us what schedules are to be raised and what lowered.

If the republicans who favor tariff reform can be deceived by the juggling that is going on in the writing of platforms, they are not as wide awake as they have given us reason to believe.

If the republican leaders in Iowa had been entirely frank they would have said: "We point to the fact that the promise of four years ago is still unfulfilled, and we make another promise just like it. We have no more thought of keeping it than we had then. We fooled the public before, and we expect to do so again."

If the people want tariff reform, they must get it from the democratic party.



#### A LOUISVILLE INCIDENT

Commoner readers may be interested in the following dispatch carried by the Associated Press:

Louisville, Ky., April 16.—The formal opening of the Hughes campaign, which has been quietly gathering way in Kentucky for some time, came tonight, when General Stewart L. Woodruff, former United States minister to Spain, delivered an address in Leiderkranz hall in the interest of the governor of New York. The hall was filled and the audience an enthusiastic one. General Woodruff devoted his address almost entirely to the political situation and the chances for the election of the various candidates. His points in favor of Governor Hughes apparently found favor.

Referring to his reception this evening, when he was met by delegations of ex-confederates and G. A. R. men, General Woodruff appealed to the old soldiers on both sides to unite on Governor Hughes for the benefit of their country, as they had already amalgamated for their benefit on other questions.

"Governor Hughes," declared the speaker, "is the only candidate whose election can be predicted with certainty and whose success at the polls would be considered as an unmitigated blessing to the public, which demands both the correction of abuses and the continuance of our present prosperity. New York has often been a pivotal state, and all signs this year indicate that the selection of a president will almost certainly lie with her. The republicans have a number of candidates, and there is not one who would fall below the average standard we demand of our presidents, but it is doubtful if any—and Taft most of all—except Governor Hughes can carry the state. Bryan is stronger in New York than either his friends or his enemies are aware of."

The mention of the Nebraskan drew cheers from a portion of the audience, and General Woodruff, smiling broadly, said: "That's good! I'm the best natured man in the country when I hear a good citizen cheered. Nominations, however, are still in order."

He then proceeded with his speech, remarking at the close: "Hughes is the universal second choice and when the time comes for the final test of strength the undercurrent will show the politicians whom the people really want."



#### NEW YORK DEMOCRATS

New York democrats met at New York City, April 15, and elected as delegates at large to the democratic national convention, Alton B. Parker, Charles F. Murphy, Lewis Nixon, all of New York City, and Charles Froeh of Brooklyn. The delegates were instructed to adopt the unit rule. No effort was made on the floor of

the convention to endorse Mr. Bryan, the resolutions committee having rejected the resolution to that effect. Patrick H. McCarren, leader of the Kings county democracy was unseated on a contest, the delegation lead by Bird S. Colar being seated. The platform adopted was as follows:

"The democracy of the state of New York, in convention assembled, hereby declares as follows:

"We believe that the democracy of the nation, by the strength of its position on questions of great public importance and by the blunders and extravagance of the republican party has this year presented to it an unusual opportunity to return to the control of the government of the country, and to that end we believe that every sacrifice which patriotism may suggest or public sentiment require should be made by all members of the party in order to again put democratic principles into actual operation in the administration of the affairs of the government.

"We believe that as the country is greater than the party, so is the party greater than any of its members, and therefore personal ambition and individual preferment must give way to the good of the many and the triumph of the cause.

"We hold that democratic traditions, bound up as they are with much that is greatest in the history of the country, require that the conventions should be the gatherings of the best intellect, the ripest judgment and the most unselfish patriotism of a party for the purpose of studying the needs and striving for the welfare of the country at large, and, therefore, representing the party in the greatest state of the union, a state whose electoral vote is essential to democratic victory, with no animosity or hostility for any candidate and animated only by devotion to the principles of the party, call upon the democracy of the country to send to Denver in July next, unpledged, unfettered and uninstructed, their ablest, strongest and most representative men, to the end that out of the deliberation and consultation of such men, there may be then and there nominated a ticket which will rally to its support the judgment, conscience and vote of a majority of the citizens of the country."



#### THE GLADNESS OF THE BAREFOOT BOY

Commoner readers may be interested in the following extract from a speech delivered by Representative Robert Lamar of Missouri in the house of representatives:

"I have read of the wonder of the ancient world, the hanging gardens of Babylon, which Nebuchadnezzar reared in graceful terraces high above the brazen gates of the city to remind his Median wife of her mountain home, and I have read in the Odyssey of that land of delight, the island of the lotus-eaters, of which Tennyson draws this beautiful picture:

"How sweet it were, hearing the downward stream, with half-shut eyes, to ever seem, falling asleep in a half dream!"

"But certainly the garden spot of the modern world is in the Mississippi valley, with its sun-kissed mountains and broad rolling prairies. The paradise of the twentieth century civilization, there in our magnificent, fertile and majestic Missouri, with her blue sky, her pellucid streams, her balmy air, her gorgeous sunsets and her everlasting hills. We may visit the famed galleries of the world and feast our aesthetic tastes upon the masterpieces of Raphael, Rembrandt and Angelo, Reynolds and Vandyke, but no painter's brush ever has or ever can produce on canvass half the glory and majesty and sublimity of an autumn sunset in the Ozark hills, with the golden sunlight gilding the tree tops and throwing over and about the variegated foliage its soft and mellow radiance. (Applause.)

"Beethoven and Mozart, Mendelssohn and Handel and Wagner, have poured forth a flood of melody and harmony which will delight the ears of mankind while civilization lasts, but it can never inspire that feeling of buoyancy and exhilaration, that bubbling joy and gladness, which is felt by the barefoot boy as he listens to the morning song of the mocking-bird, the robin and the lark as they flit from limb to limb, while the sunlight glistens on the dew and the very air he breathes is full of life and gladness." (Applause.)



At any rate "Uncle Joe" Cannon, if elected president, would surely "bust" as many trusts as have been "busted" during the last six or seven years.