

THE WOOD PULP BUNCOMBE

The speaker of the national house has introduced his resolution for an independent investigation of the paper trust and the allegations that have been made against it by the publishers. The resolution was passed yesterday and the speaker appointed an investigating committee. But if any of the standpatters imagine that they are fooling anyone their capacity for self-deception is extraordinary.

Who takes the resolution seriously? Who will take the investigation seriously in view of its origin and purpose? It will be regarded as an investigation for "Buncombe county only." The new trust busters are in no hurry. Though there is "nothing doing" in congress, it is not expected that the work will be completed before adjournment. And then the national conventions will monopolize attention, and no one will remember wood pulp. After that the dog days will furnish an excuse for a slow pace.

Our standpat friends intend to "exploit" the resolution in their "deestricts," to point to it with affected pride as a statesmanlike substitute for revision. They will run the risk of hooting and jeering. Their little game is too transparent. Their only serious argument—that they could not touch wood pulp and paper without reopening the whole tariff question—was gone when it was shown that the admitted need of forest-saving furnished a complete and convincing reason for treating the wood pulp and paper duties as belonging to a separate and distinct category. The house minority is on record as acquiescing in such treatment of these duties. The anxious standpatters know that telling quotations from presidential messages and resolutions of manufacturers and clubs and other organizations were at their disposal to justify to all minds the singling out of the schedule in question for revision at this time. They are reckoning without the common sense and the humor of their constituents.

(The above is not a Commoner editorial. It was not taken from any democratic paper. It appeared as an editorial in that devoted old republican newspaper, the Chicago Record-Herald—issue of April 22.)

"THE FULL DINNER PAIL"

The state labor department of New York on April 19 issued a bulletin in which it is stated that at the close of 1907 one out of every three union men in the state was idle. The trades union policy is to not only shorten the working day, but to limit the number of working days per week in order to insure work enough for their members to provide against want. For instance, the International Typographical Union has a law prohibiting a member working more than six consecutive days if there is any member of the union looking for work in the local jurisdiction. Many local unions adopted a five-day law early last winter in order to distribute the work among more men. Other unions do the same thing, and this served in large measure to tide many men with families over the winter. But if one out of every three union men in New York state is out of employment, what must be the proportion of jobless men in the unorganized trades and occupations? The campaign slogan of "The full dinner pail" would elicit more jeers than cheers if offered to the workmen of New York today.

HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is dead. When he was chosen prime minister of England those who knew him intimately felt that his selection was a vindication of the doctrine that patience and courage when joined with merit are invincible. During his entire public career Campbell-Bannerman stood unflinchingly for democratic ideas. He was never discouraged when he found himself in the minority; on the contrary, he has felt as confident in his position when he has had to maintain it amid taunts and jeers as when his speeches brought forth applause. He was not as great an orator as Gladstone but he had a persuasive manner and his fine sense of humor gave brilliancy to his speeches.

In outlining the policy of the liberal party last December, he credited the victory at the polls to several causes—the tariff question, the Chinese question, the educational problem and municipal questions. He pledged his party to certain reforms and boldly advocated a reduction of military and naval expenses. He pointed out that there could be no retrenchment in tax-

ation if the appropriations for armaments and for armies continued to increase. He has been called a "little Englander," but that did not deter him from uttering a protest against the rivalry which seems to be going on in Europe in the building of warships.

In view of his utterances in favor of arbitration and against militarism it was most appropriate that he should deliver the address of welcome at the recent session of the Interparliamentary Union, better known as the peace congress. His speech on that occasion was an epoch-making deliverance. In no uncertain tones he threw the influence of his ministry on the side of peace and opened the door for the adoption of a far-reaching proposition in favor of the submission of all questions to investigation before hostilities are commenced. He used the North Sea incident as an illustration and urged the extension of the powers of the board of inquiry. His now famous exclamation, "The duma is dead—long live the duma," illustrates both his moral courage and his devotion to representative government. The sentence was a part of his peace congress speech and was uttered in the presence of the duma representatives who left Russia before the proroguing of that body. It electrified the audience and has been widely commented on throughout Europe.

His death will be keenly regretted in all sections of the world. England has lost one of her great characters and liberty has lost one of its faithful champions.

THE WORLD DODGES

Writing to the New York World T. K. VanDyke of Harrisburg, Pa., says:

Here are three questions for the World to answer:

1. Did the World support Bryan in 1896 and 1900?
2. Will the World support Bryan in 1908 if he is nominated by the overwhelming vote of the national convention?
3. For whom does the World speak, naming specifically "the interests" which control its utterances?

Over Mr. VanDyke's letter the World prints this headline, "Answered with Pleasure," and below the letter appears the following:

Answers:

1. The World did not support Mr. Bryan in 1896. It supported him in 1900 on the issue of the un-American policy of Asiatic colonial government.
2. It is not easy to conceive of circumstances in which the World could conscientiously support Mr. Bryan for president this year.
3. The "interests which control" the utterances of the World are the public interests.—Ed. World.

But the World does not answer Mr. VanDyke's third question. He asked "For whom does the World speak, naming specifically 'the interests' which control its utterances." And the only answer which this great newspaper makes to this question is: "The 'interests which control' the utterances of the World are the public interests."

But that by no means answers the question. It is mere assertion and leaves the reader dependent upon the word of the editor of the World which, in this particular, may be of no value.

Let the World state the extent of the financial interests held by its owner, Joseph Pulitzer in railroad companies and in great corporations commonly known as trusts.

With this information the readers of the World will be in better position to determine the special interests for which the New York World is carrying on its campaign of misrepresentation with respect to democrats who have not the favor of the World and its masters.

REDUCTIONS AND INCREASES

The Philadelphia Public Ledger greatly deprecates any strike against a reduction of wages, and insists that managers with common sense always try to deal openly and fairly with their employees. Then it says:

"In New England the cotton mills were compelled to face the situation. The managers made a clear, frank, convincing statement of the situation to their operatives, and thousands of workers accepted the inevitable. Several railroads have been forced to make wage cuts. There was no escape. The men who handled the freight knew as well as the presidents of the

roads that the business was not being done. The reductions were made and accepted."

That is all very well, as far as it goes—but it doesn't go far enough. Just as soon as business falls off the managers begin retrenching, and wages are the first to suffer the cut. That is the invariable rule in all productive enterprises that are not bound by wage contracts. But when business revives and begins to boom, wages are the last to feel the upward impulse. The railroad manager who draws \$40,000 or \$50,000 a year salary finds it easy to announce a ten per cent reduction in the wages of the section men, the round house "wipers," the car cleaners and other unskilled men. He seldom thinks of a ten per cent reduction in his own salary and the salaries of his well paid lieutenants. The cotton mill owner finds it easy to reduce wages ten or twenty per cent during dull times, but it requires a long time for him to restore the wages when business is again booming. Perhaps if the great corporations were as quick to increase wages in good times as they are to lower wages in hard times, there would be fewer strikes.

SAVING THE BOYS

No one expects perfection at once in the administration of juvenile court laws, but the marked success of Judge Lee Estelle of Omaha in reaching and saving the boys is an evidence of what great results may be achieved in this great work. So long did society enact laws to protect itself from the individual that it overlooked the necessity of enacting laws to protect the individual from society. But of late the protection of the individual has been given attention with the result that we now have child labor laws, employers' liability laws, safety appliance laws, and other laws of similar character. At the very foundation of all these laws, however, is the law protecting the children from the greed and carelessness of society. The old plan of herding delinquent and so-called "incorrigibles" in the same "bull pen" with old and seasoned criminals was only a plan for the propagation of crime. It made criminals instead of protecting society. The new and saner plan is to prevent boys and girls from becoming criminals. They are not only protected from the greed that would rob them of their childhood and their chance in order to profit by their toll, but they are protected by being taken from bad environment and put in the midst of proper surroundings.

It requires not only a knowledge of boys, but the knack of interesting them and gaining their confidence, in order to successfully prosecute this great work. Judge Estelle possesses these attributes in rich measure, and his work in Omaha is bearing rich fruit. It is gratifying to know that such men are growing more and more in demand as chautauqua lecturers. When men of great legal learning, like Judge Estelle, tell society how to handle the "boy problem" great results may be expected—results that will be of incalculable benefit to society. Those who have heard Judge Estelle are a unit in endorsing him and his work as a judge and as a lecturer. His years of experience in the work, his warm and tender sympathies, and his magnetic personality, combine to make him markedly successful in this great work.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

An employers' liability bill passed the house and senate, and now it is reported that there is a serious defect sufficient for the courts to declare it unconstitutional. Perhaps, however, judicial action on this measure, like tariff revision, will be had "after the presidential election."

THE PIE PUMPKIN

Now that the season for planting the fruitful seed in the fertile soil has arrived, we would call upon the Washington Herald to join with us in a crusade of much more than passing moment. We refer to the need of campaigning for more enlightenment as to the pie pumpkin of commerce. Too many there be who imagine that any old pumpkin is good enough for pie filling, and that all that is necessary is to shove the seed into the ground by the pressure of the ball of the thumb and let it go at that. Such ignorance is not only appalling, but it is responsible in large measure for the decadence of the succulent pumpkin pie. The Washington Herald has been so valiant in its defense of the pumpkin pie that we feel