

# The Commoner.

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## INSTRUCT YOUR DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Instructions to delegates are the order of the day. Nearly all the states which have held democratic conventions, so far, have instructed. This is as it should be; instructions are democratic. The people speak through instructions — they can not speak in any other way. A failure to instruct turns the delegates over to party bosses.

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#### "WHO'S WHO?"

The Kansas City Journal has an editorial denying that money is being used to prevent Mr. Bryan's nomination. It says "Who would spend money to defeat Bryan's nomination? Certainly not the trusts or railroads." It is unfortunate for the Journal that this editorial came out just about the time when Mr. Ryan was admitting upon the witness stand that the Metropolitan Street Railway company, of New York, contributed half a million to politics in 1900 and that a part of it was used in the effort to prevent Mr. Bryan's nomination that year. The Journal says that the trusts and the railroads are not against Mr. Bryan's nomination, and yet the fact that Mr. Ryan and the Journal are opposed to Mr. Bryan's nomination is a complete answer to the Journal's own statement.

#### SO THE EYE MAY SEE

An Elgin National watch, seven jewels, in an open-face twenty-year gold-filled case costs the American retailer of watches \$10.75, which may be represented by a line thus:

This same watch is sold to the dealer in England for the sum of \$7.41, which may be represented by a line thus:

The American purchaser is therefore compelled to pay, in addition to the dealers' regular profit thirty-seven per cent more for an American made watch than the English customer is compelled to pay, which may be represented by this:

Paid by American purchaser.

The American watch trust is enabled to thus rob the American consumer by reason of the protective tariff.

Why delay tariff revision?



"ALAS, POOR YORICK!"

## A BOSTON EXAMPLE

The president in his recent message gives an illustration of trust methods. He tells of Boston's experience with a combination which secured control of the market. He says:

"Allegations are often made to the effect that there is no real need for these laws looking to the more effective control of the great corporations, upon the ground that they will do their work well without such control. I call your attention to the accompanying copy of a report just submitted by Mr. Nathan Matthews, chairman of the finance commission, to the mayor and city council of Boston, relating to certain evil practices of various corporations which have been bidders for furnishing to the city iron and steel. This report shows that there have been extensive combinations formed among the various corporations which have business with the city of Boston, including, for instance, a carefully planned combination embracing practically all the firms and

corporations engaged in structural steel work in New England. This combination included substantially all the local concerns, and many of the largest corporations in the United States, engaged in manufacturing or furnishing structural steel for use in any part of New England; it affected the states, the cities and towns, the railroads and street railways, and generally all persons in that section of the country. As regards the city of Boston, the combination resulted in parceling out the work by collusive bids, plainly dishonest, and supported by false affirmation.

"I have submitted this report to the department of justice for thorough investigation and for action if action shall prove practicable.

"Surely such a state of affairs as that above set forth emphasizes the need of further federal legislation, not merely because of the material benefits such legislation will secure, but above all because this federal action should be part,