

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Good morning, have you contributed your mite to the democratic campaign fund?

Prosperity talks into an empty dinner pail ring hollow to the ears of the out-of-work workingman.

The formation of a rolling chair trust is reported. The trusts put the rollers under the people quite awhile ago.

Up to date the manufacturers who promise to open up if Taft is elected have failed to tell us why they closed down.

The administration definition of "pernicious activity" seems to be "taking sides in a factional fight within the party."

A republican campaign opening in Ohio without Joseph Benson Foraker wielding the canopener is an ill omen for the g. o. p.

Possibly there are yet some farmers who believe that the tariff on corn is the only thing that keeps the corn belt from being extended.

"Mr. Taft's promises are not binding on the republican party," says Senator Hopkins. And the Taft promises are not unique, even at that.

Noting that Mr. Taft strayed away from the Chicago platform the managers of his campaign tour thoughtfully provided a car with a rear platform safely railed in.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch is boasting of Virginia's apple crop. What we want to see in a couple of months is a lot of republican reference to Virginia's lemon crop.

Mr. Rockefeller reviewed the Labor Day parade in Cleveland, but he will not become alarmed until the men who marched that day begin voting as solidly as they march.

The news that Uncle Russell Sage was worked by dealers in bogus stocks makes it easier to understand how a western farmer can vote for a tax on lumber and barbed wire.

The Philadelphia Ledger unwittingly invited its readers to write and tell how they were going to vote, and so many republicans are writing in to tell how gladly they will vote for Bryan this time that the Ledger will either have to withdraw its invitation or set its editorial in solid nonpareil.

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MR. BRYAN IN NEW YORK

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croachments upon the banking business to our system which leaves the banking business to the bankers and compels the banks to protect their depositors.

THE TRUST QUESTION

"The third scare presented by Mr. Taft is in the discussion of the trust question. He says that Mr. Roosevelt would compel the trusts to conduct their business in a lawful manner and secure the benefits of their operation and the maintenance of the prosperity of the country of which they are an important part, while Mr. Bryan would extirpate and destroy the entire business in order to stamp out the evils which they have practiced.

"In using this emphatic language Mr. Taft has rendered a service because he admits that the republican party does not intend to prevent trusts. It only proposes to regulate them and if we can judge the future by the past, the regulation will not be effective. If Mr. Roosevelt, with all his strenuousness, has not succeeded in imprisoning a single trust magnate, how can the complacent Mr. Taft hope to accomplish anything in the way of regulation?

"The democratic plan is to bring manufacturing and trading corporations under the surveillance of the general government when they are at a point when their business becomes a menace. Their limit is fixed arbitrarily at twenty-five per cent, and it is needless to say that this limit is so high that an insignificant fraction of the corporations would be brought under the operation of the law, but those brought under the operation of the law would be the very ones which have been exploiting the country, evading the effects of the law. This plan, instead of disturbing business, would protect a multitude of legitimate corporations which are now in constant fear of being bankrupt by the unscrupulous methods of the monopolistic corporations.

DECLARATION ON THE TARIFF

"The fourth scare which Mr. Taft presents is excited by the democratic declarations on the tariff question. Speaking of our platform pledge to make such radical reductions as may be necessary to restore the tariff to a revenue basis, he declares in his notification speech that the introduction into power of a party with this avowed purpose can not but halt the gradual recovery from our recent financial depression and produce business disaster, compared with which our recent panic and depression will seem very small indeed.

"Surely Mr. Taft can not contemplate any material reduction of the tariff if he really believes that a gradual return to a revenue basis would involve us in any 'business disaster, compared with which our recent panic and depression will seem small indeed.'

"Mr. Taft began his candidacy a year ago as a champion of tariff reform; but a month has witnessed a lessening of his zeal, until now his temperature as registered by the tariff reform thermometer is close to zero.

"What is there in the democratic platform that could be construed as a threat to any legitimate business? Will it produce a panic to put on the free list articles that come in competition with articles controlled by the trusts? Democratic success will not bring a panic to any except those who have their hands in other people's pockets, and these ought to be frightened.

"Will it disturb business to materially reduce the tariff on the necessities of life, especially on those articles that are sold abroad cheaper than at home? If we can compete in foreign markets, do we need a high tariff to enable us to compete in the home markets?

"Since Mr. Taft has gone into the business of predicting panics if he is not elected, it is only fair to ask what guarantee he can give if he is elected. No one can doubt that he honestly believes that the country will go to ruin if he is defeated, and that it will prosper if he is elected. But what guarantee have we that his opinion is well founded? Suppose he is elected and financial distress follows. It will be small relief to the people to know that he really thought he could make times good. We had a panic last fall when Mr. Roosevelt was president, although the people were promised immunity from panics in case of republican success. What reason has Mr. Taft to believe that his anti-panic specific will be more of a success than the present president's?

"In conclusion, I beg you to decide these questions upon their merits. Weigh the arguments. Be not misled by the direful prophecies

of a candidate who has convinced himself and now seeks to convince you that in some mysterious way the country's prosperity depends upon his election."

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN AND STANDARD OIL

The Associated Press dispatches dated Cincinnati, September 17, announced the big Taft meeting for Cincinnati, Tuesday, September 22. It was announced that Mr. Taft will be the principal speaker at the evening meeting where Senator Foraker will preside.

Columbus, Ohio, Associated Press dispatches dated September 17, told of a meeting addressed by William R. Hearst, editor of the New York American.

Mr. Hearst said:

"I am now going to read copies of letters written by Mr. John D. Archbold, chief agent of the Standard Oil, an intimate personal representative of Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Rogers. These letters have been given me by a gentleman who has intimate associations with this giant of corruption, the Standard Oil, but whose name I may not divulge, lest he be subjected to the persecution of this monopoly."

Mr. Hearst then read the following letters:

"26 Broadway, March 9, 1900.—My Dear Senator: I have your favor of last night with enclosure, which latter, with letter from Mr. Elliott commenting on same, I beg to send you herewith. Perhaps it would be better to make a demonstration against the whole bill, but certainly the ninth clause, to which Mr. Elliott refers, should be stricken out, and the same is true of house bill No. 500, also introduced by Mr. Price in relation to foreign corporations, in which the same objectionable clause occurs. I am glad to hear that you think that the situation is fairly well in hand. Very truly yours,

"JOHN D. ARCHBOLD."

"Hon. J. B. Foraker, Washington, D. C."

26 Broadway, New York, March 16, 1900.—Hon. J. B. Foraker, 1500 Sixteenth street, Washington, D. C. Dear Senator: In accordance with our understanding, I now beg to enclose you a certificate of deposit to your favor for \$15,000. Kindly acknowledge receipt, and oblige yours very truly,

"JOHN D. ARCHBOLD."

26 Broadway, New York, February 16, 1900.—My Dear Senator: Here is still another very objectionable bill. It is so outrageous as to be ridiculous, but it needs to be looked after, and I hope there will be no difficulty in killing it. Am anxious to hear from you as to the situation as a whole. Very truly yours,

"JOHN D. ARCHBOLD."

"Hon. J. B. Foraker, 1500 Sixteenth Street, Washington, D. C."

"You will see, gentlemen, that these letters are not read at random, but they have a natural sequence. Here is the next:

"26 Broadway, New York, April 17, 1900.—My Dear Senator: I enclose you certificate of deposit to your favor of \$14,500. We are greatly at loss in the matter. I send this and will be very glad to have a very frank talk with you when opportunity offers, if you so desire. I need scarcely again express our great gratification over the favorable outcome of affairs. Very truly yours,

"JOHN D. ARCHBOLD."

"Hon. J. B. Foraker, 1500 Sixteenth Street, Washington, D. C."

Mr. Hearst added: "There, my friends, is some documentary evidence of how bills are decided to be unwise and to be unconstitutional and some intimation of the causes that lead to the defeat of such bills.

* * * How many men have the Standard Oil, the sugar trust, the beef combination and others driven from business and ruined? How often have the rights of individuals been ignored and outraged? Has not legislation been bought and even the precincts of justice invaded? * * * —Portland (Me.) Advertiser.

* * * They try to put their creatures in all official places which touch their interests at any point. They demand subsidies for their ships. They insist that the money of the government be deposited in banks in which they are heavily interested, so they may be able to control the stock markets. * * * Their demands are usually complied with.—Chicago Tribune.