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**THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.**

"My policies" seem to be getting the short-arm jab.

A tariff revised by its beneficiaries will not offer much comfort to its victims.

"Average reductions" will not take any of the burdens from the shoulders of the toilers.

If you want to hear a real call for help, just propose a revenue tax on watered stock certificates.

It is announced that Pullman cars are to be all steel hereafter. How about the equilibrium? Same old tip?

The tariff revision bill is full of "jokers" is the information given out. With the laugh on the people instead of from them.

A popular sign for dry goods stores, "Buy your stockings and gloves NOW; the Payne bill will get you if you don't watch out."

Were it not for the wireless telegraph we might have had at least six days' relief. Even a great utility like the wireless has its drawbacks.

"The law of averages" may look good on paper, but when the workingman figures up the increased cost of living under a revised tariff he will have very little difficulty in seeing the "joker."

War taxes in time of peace; bond issues in time of peace; growing deficit under a high protective tariff; abandonment of the "home market" cry and talk about "world markets!" It must make an old-time republican sit up and rub his eyes.

Another slide has occurred in the dam at Gutan. Three hundred feet of the dam sunk thirty feet, "but little attention being given to it, however," according to the dispatches. Certainly not. Uncle Sam may be trusted to dig up enough money to fill any old slide.

Senator Aldrich informs an expectant world that the inheritance tax law can never pass the senate. Perhaps not as the senate is now constituted. But after a few more states have adopted the Oregon plan the senate will not be much longer owned, controlled and wielded by a senator named Aldrich.

## Governor Gilchrist Has Faith in Democracy

Governor Albert W. Gilchrist of Florida writes:

I thought and still think, that the main issue in the recent national election should have been the tariff and the trusts growing out of the tariff. I noticed that during the entire campaign but little was done toward making the tariff a live issue. During the past three-fourths of a century with the exception of Abraham Lincoln, the greatest president of the United States, Grover Cleveland twice won on the tariff issue. The trusts are largely an outgrowth of the tariff. Due to unequal opportunities, on account of the operation of law, the bulk of the wealth of the United States is now held in the hands of a few. Should any party come into power with the avowed purpose of cutting off those unequal opportunities, those few people are in a position to clog the wheels of industry, to cause hard times and to almost compel the election of another set of men. With the continuation of this excessive, high tariff twenty years more, these few will have still greater power.

The republican party freed the black man. By the operation of the high tariff, they will enslave the white man and re-enslave the black. Opportunity knocked at the door of the democratic party. The party heard it not. The party did appeal to the union labor vote. The republican party appealed to the manufacturers by guaranteeing them a "reasonable profit." And appealed to the "wage earner" by stating that they are "the most direct beneficiaries of the protective system." Towards the close of the campaign the republican party accentuated, in their oratory and in their literature, the benefits to be derived from the protective system to the "wage earners of this country." In the handling of the trusts the republican party simply stated that they proposed to amend the Sherman anti-trust law. They did not go into the details of the proposed law. The democratic party went into details of the law by which they were to handle "indefensible and intolerable" monopoly. My experience, as a member of the Florida legislature, has been that many people might agree with you on the general proposition of a law, but would disagree

with you as to its details. In its platform the democratic party went into details and the republican party did not.

As to railroad legislation the republican party favored "such national legislation and supervision as will prevent the future over issue of stocks and bonds by interstate carriers." The democratic party not only favored such a law but favored a physical valuation of such interstate carriers. Every man who owned any bonds or stocks or who was interested in such carriers would be naturally opposed to the success of the democratic party. There are several million people interested in railroads, either as employees, bond holders and stockholders. The bondholders and stockholders were naturally opposed to the success of the democratic party. They naturally endeavored to have their employees work with them.

It seems to me that the depositors should have favored the national guarantee of bank deposits. With the exception of the discussion of the guarantee of bank deposits, the campaign of the democratic party was largely a matter of crimination and recrimination.

All the old arguments of the republican party in behalf of the tariff are no longer tenable. They used to say "infant industries." They haven't the cheek now to claim the giants to be infants. They used to say that the foreigners paid the tax. They haven't the cheek to make that argument now. They used to say that the competition among American manufacturers would reduce the price to a reasonable basis. Since the formation of trusts they haven't the cheek to make that argument. They have the cheek to assert now that the "wage earners of this country are the most direct beneficiaries of the protective system." During the recent campaign the democratic party failed to make them ashamed of this proposition.

The republican party came into power through revolution. They established a high protective principle of graft and unequal opportunity as an incident of revolution.

I am not discouraged at the defeat of the democratic party. I have an abiding faith in its final success.

ALBERT W. GILCHRIST.

## "Useless War on Trusts," By a Republican Paper

In its issue of Wednesday, February 24, the Kansas City Journal, a stalwart Taft organ printed a significant editorial entitled "The Useless War on Trusts." That editorial should be read by every republican who imagines that the republican party really intends to give the people relief from trust exactions. The Journal's editorial follows:

"Those persons, demagogues and sincere by ill-informed political economists alike, who imagine that the present anti-trust laws could be successfully invoked to settle the trust question have sadly missed their guess. The entire legal machinery of the Roosevelt administration has been kept going at full steam for seven years, directed by the best legal talent which the attorney general's department and special prosecutors could afford; attorney generals of various states have devoted their best energies to the task; every available means has been used to curb or drive the trusts out of business; and the result is that the trust breakers find themselves deeper in the mire now than they were in the beginning. It is true that a few of the trusts, a very few, have been adjudged guilty of illegal practices; judgments have been obtained against the Standard Oil company in Missouri and the International Harvester company in Kansas, but the federal administration has been obliged to content itself with one lone victory—in the Northern Securities case.

"But these have proven barren victories. As Governor Hadley has stated: "A rigid enforcement of the anti-trust laws of Missouri would drive fully one-third of the business enterprises out of existence." As a very young and earnest attorney general Mr. Hadley started out four years ago to drive the Standard Oil company out of Missouri, and it must be admitted that he accomplished his task with remarkable brilliancy and directness of purpose. He exhausted the law's resources and shot every arrow in his quiver straight to the chosen mark. But mature years and greater power have brought to his mind a graver and broader sense of his respon-

sibilities, a thing which argues well for his future fame and for which the people of Missouri may well be thankful. The best augury of Governor Hadley's future, and guaranty as well of his eminent fitness for his high office, is this frank acknowledgment that the thing he has labored earnestly and successfully for four years to accomplish is impracticable without serious injury to the commonwealth.

"The same conclusion will be found inevitable in Kansas in the case of the International Harvester company. The anti-trust law can not be enforced against it without demoralizing business in that state; and even if it were possible to drive out the harvester company alone it would work a great hardship upon the farmers, the very class of citizens whom it was hoped to benefit by the prosecution. It must be remembered, too, that if this great corporation were ousted it would be necessary in the administering of equal justice to all alike to oust the labor unions, farmers' unions, fruit growers' organizations and more than a hundred other corporations and associations, most of them beneficial and useful in the highest degree, all of which come within the purview of the law which forbids organizations to control production and prices. In short, the anti-trust law is a deadly boomerang, fatal to those who invoke its use and harmless only to the really oppressive monopolies at which it was aimed. The reason is plain. No artificial legislation that the human brain can devise can successfully run counter to the natural laws of society. Evolution, the great, eternal decree of nature, has given birth to the great trusts and other combinations in trade because they mean economy, celerity and improvement in the production and sale of the article they control. They are best for the consumer as well as for the producer. Great combinations in trade are the natural, inevitable outgrowth of society's need. They exemplify also the great, irresistible law that trade moves along the easiest line of resistance. Therefore, being for the good of society, as the