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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

It seems that the new Philippine tariff has the approval of everybody save the Filipinos.

There are a lot of people who will be surprised to learn that lemons have not been on the free list.

Among other by-products of the Standard Oil trust may be mentioned a few representatives and Nelson W. Aldrich.

After all, isn't it rather restful to have an opportunity to decide a few unimportant things without executive advice?

The great trouble with the enhanced price of flour is that it will be so long up after the price of wheat takes a tumble.

When Rhode Island adopts the Oregon plan of electing United States senators the Aldrich tail will cease to wag the Uncle Sam dog.

No one need call the attention of the wheat raisers to the fact that the record-breaking price did not arrive until after they had sold their wheat.

It has been close upon sixty days since the Ananias Club was recruited by the addition of a member recommended by the nation's chief executive.

Republican congressmen who vote for increased tariff taxes after promising revision downward should take good care that hides are well protected.

That French reporter will have to have something better than an ex-president's endorsement before he can pass the inner guard of the Ananias Club temple.

Denial is made that the oil schedule in the new tariff bill was aimed to benefit the Standard Oil trust. Had the truth been admitted the shock would have been fatal.

The Lincoln (Nebr.) Wageworker suggests that in the event Mr. Carnegie is determined to pension somebody he might look up the widows of the men who were slaughtered in his steel mills.

The judge who decided that a two-cent fare did not furnish adequate return on the investment of the Missouri railroads should take the people into his confidence and tell them just how he arrived at the amount of said investment.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

THE REFORM IN MAINE

(By Roland T. Patten, of Skowhegan, Secretary of the Maine Referendum League.)

Maine has the initiative and referendum as a part of her constitution, and in a form perhaps the best, thanks to our good friends in other states, that has ever yet become law. How did it come about? Well, chiefly because the trend of things is all that way. Our little detachment of workers, presenting a solid front of six bayonets, as remarked by a friend of the cause, hastened things somewhat and helped to see to it that the statute had some business in it—was the real thing; but in my opinion it would have to come to pass within a few years just the same if the initiative and referendum league of Maine had never existed. I would not advise neglecting organization, but don't let any association or individual sacrifice anything of the good effect of their work by pride in the opinion that they have given the car of progress a great big boost, when, as a matter of fact, they have only discovered that it was moving and helped it along a bit.

When I reflect how the trend toward direct legislation has come, the change in the last ten years, I am really astounded. About 1894 I heard something of the idea as made use of in Switzerland. I had been a believer in municipal ownership and was losing courage on that line, discovering that, under irresponsible representative government, it didn't so much matter whether things were publicly owned or privately owned, as the ringsters and bosses got all there was in it anyway. Now this breath from Switzerland was just what I was looking for. If the people could only have the say, something might be hoped for from the public ownership of public utilities. Of course, I afterwards discovered that direct legislation was much broader than the idea that led me to it. I have since come to know that others were traveling the same road that I was, and coming to just about the same conclusion, but at the time I knew nothing of them.

I wanted the initiative and referendum bad. I was impatient and in no mood for delays. Used to the wiles of practical politics, a county official and a member of the inner ring of the dominant party in my section, the first thing I did was to go to the county boss and offer him a plank to be presented at the county convention, then about to assemble. I don't think he had ever heard of the initiative and referendum, but he knew right away it was a thing he didn't want. It made him a little out of humor even to have such an idea suggested. He turned it down, flat. It was of no use at that time to try to get anything through the county convention that the boss didn't approve of, and I didn't try. But the thing went comparatively easy after all. Every convention after that that I could get at had to wrestle with the question, and in 1902 the democratic state convention at Bangor adopted the plank just as I wrote it. Right away after that I commenced to hear of others who were on the same track. Pretty soon the Initiative and Referendum League of Maine was formed, the Maine State Federation of Labor and the Maine State Grange, became interested, and in 1906 we succeeded in getting a plank favoring our measure adopted at the state convention of every one of the four political parties of this state. I should also mention in passing that in the legislature elected in 1904 we made a very good bid for success. The same gentleman who, as boss of Somerset county in the nineties, had turned the measure down, was then president of the Maine senate, and he left the chair to vote in favor of the bill, making it a tie vote in his branch of the legislature. Thus do things change.

Well, the direct legislation crowd knocked at the door of the seventy-third legislature, early in the session, with those four planks, from the four state platforms, adopted by the four Maine parties in the preceding campaign. Then the real battle came on. The banks, the timber land owners, the railroads, and the allied interests had a splendidly equipped lobby, and about every gun was turned on our measure. We were a good deal troubled, but fortune favored us and the "tnterests" got to scrapping among themselves. Portland wanted the seat of government transferred to her precinct from Augusta, and Maine became a great warring camp in which every man was tagged as "for

removal" (of the capital to Portland) or against it. From our standpoint this was a "good thing." We lost no opportunity to "push it along." None of us cared about the location of the capital. They might have located it on an island, off the coast or on the Canadian border. for all we cared. Any old place was good enough for us to have the laws made, provided the people could have a chance to revise them under the initiative and referendum. All we wanted was a good sharp fight, and the material was all there for it, in this capital removal business. We also gave judicious encouragement to a few other minor legislative contests and we soon found that we could force a vote on our measure before the capital removal bill came to a vote, one side being so greedy to get, and the other to retain, the seat of government, that neither dared be found opposing a measure that they knew was so universally demanded as the initiative and referendum. Our bill, to refer it to the people in the form of a constitutional amendment, passed both branches without a single dissenting vote.

This was in the winter of 1907, and the amendment was voted on at the election of September, 1908. It was adopted by a vote of about two to one. There was a steady campaign against it all the time and the mails were filled with opposition literature, just before election day, but it was of no use. Another legislature is now in session. We have the pleasure of knowing that, if they do anything very rank, we can call the law out and have the people vote on it. It is too early in the session to prophesy what use, if any, will be made of this privilege. We do not anticipate that the occasions will be frequent that it will be demanded. But it is there, ready for use, and Maine has what she soon hopes to see all her sister states attain, but what she had never before enjoyed, the governmental machinery under which the

people can rule.

IT IS COMING

We favor an income tax as part of our . revenue system and we urge the submission of a constitutional amendment specifically authorizing congress to levy and collect a tax upon individual and corporate incomes to the end that wealth may bear its proportionate share of the burdens of the federal government .- (Income tax plank Democratic National Platform 1908.)

In the campaign of 1908 the democrats demanded an income tax and favored a constitutional amendment as the means of securing it. Now the republicans are considering the question, although they refused to include it in their platform.

KINDLY EYES

If you look on the world with kindly eyes You will see nothing in it to despise, In all that hitherto seemed low and mean You will see virtues heretofore unseen And all the beauties of the world will grow More beautiful than those you used to know. The faults of others you can then condone, Because they are so like unto your own, For others' actions you excuse can find As if they were your own you had in mind. No harsh misjudgment will you then express, Thus advertising your own littleness; No hasty criticism will you make, Which, though half founded, might cause hearts

to ache. But, loving all your world and by your world Beloved, forgiving and forgiven, furled Safe in dear hearts—all that will be your prize If you look on the world with kindly eyes.

-Kansas City Times.

Having opposed the guaranty law in Nebraska during the campaign the republican leaders in that state are now declaring that the new law is not hearly as good as the one they wanted.