

domestic or foreign. He seemed to be little interested in philanthropic enterprises.

But possibly it is just as well that his selfishness manifested itself in the disposition of his goods. If he had been generous and large-hearted in his bequests, his will would have been used to give a halfway justification to the methods which he employed in the accumulation of his money; but as it is his will presents an indictment not only against him, but against that peculiar type of business life which he represented—a life in which the soul is shriveled and the better impulses stifled by business practices which deaden the conscience and rob life of that which makes it worth living. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

LOST IN WONDER

The Chicago Record-Herald reports that James A. Patten and his associates wound up their campaign in May wheat with a profit of between three and a half and four millions. Our legislators are so amazed at the successes of the wheat corner and so lost in admiration of the genius that could engineer it that they will probably forget the injustice done to the public and the demoralizing influence which speculation exerts upon those inclined toward grain gambling. How long would it be before public sentiment will cleanse the stock exchange, the board of trade and the chamber of commerce from the abuses which speculation in the necessities of life have introduced?

DEMOCRACY

Senator McEnery, of Louisiana, in making an argument for a duty on sugar says: "It is gratifying that at this session of congress we notice a great change of opinion among democrats who are voting for a duty on raw material, although at one time raw material was considered a cardinal principle of democracy." If Senator McEnery will listen closely he will notice that the sound which emanates from the throats of the democrats of the rank and file when they read of this charge does not resemble rejoicing. And if the senator happens to look in upon the senate a few years hence, it may not be gratifying to him to notice so many new faces.

PROTECTION'S FAVORS

The Reform Club (Room 314, 42-Broadway, N. Y.) has just issued a very valuable pamphlet entitled "Protection's Favors to Foreigners." It gives a concise review of the very best evidence, official and otherwise, brought out in recent years in regard to the sale of American manufactured goods abroad at a lower price than they are sold at home. The readers of The Commoner are invited to write to the Reform Club in regard to this pamphlet. Everyone who desires to discuss the tariff question ought to secure a copy.

INTERESTING

A paper has been established at Wata, Okla., called "The Bank Deposit Guaranty Journal." The purpose of the paper, as its name implies, is to keep its readers informed as to the progress that deposit guaranty is making. The Commoner is glad to encourage the paper and to call attention of Commoner readers to it. Those who are interested in this reform—as all ought to be—should keep in touch with the Bank Deposit Guaranty Journal.

RIISING DEMOCRATS

The times are propitious for the growth of democrats. The issue between the "plunder bund" on the one side and the reform element of the country on the other is being more sharply drawn, and crises like those through which we are passing develop strong men. Sometimes the hero is a member of congress, or a senator; sometimes he is a member of a state legislature; sometimes he is a governor; but he is made of the same material everywhere. He stands for honesty in politics, for fidelity to the party and for justice to the masses. He is uncorrupted by promises and unawed by threats. He prefers defeat in a battle for the right to a sham victory. To such a man opposition is but a stepping-stone to larger service. We are developing men at Washington. While some democrats are yielding to the temptation which the predatory interests are so well prepared to offer and while others are giving a few protected in-

terests preference over the rest of their constituents, a number of democrats in the senate and house are making substantial additions to their reputations by able and forceful defense of the public interest. In the states, too, the contests that have arisen have tested the metal of the men and most of them have rung true. A number of governors have been given a chance to show their moral courage by exposing the sophistry and subterfuge employed by those who attempt to escape from party pledges. The cause of the people is moving forward; even the enemies of the public are by their opposition making more clear the distinction between democracy and plutocracy. "The darkness brings out the stars."

THE SOUTH'S "INTEREST"

When Congressman Ransdall, of Louisiana, had his tariff speech printed for distribution, he put at the top of the page, as if for a text, the following: "The south has a deep interest in tariff and is rapidly changing its views on the subject. This is especially true of Louisiana which has many industries which derive great benefit from tariff enactment."

What is the south's "interest" in the tariff? What percentage of her people are benefited by a high tariff? Mr. Ransdall ought to have said that the men in the south who have a personal interest in tariff taxation are exerting an increasing influence upon the senators and representatives of the south, and that some of these representatives are rapidly changing their views on the tariff question. In Louisiana, as in other states, a small percentage of the people make money out of a high tariff, while the rest of the people bear the burden, but the few who make the money exert themselves in nominating conventions and when congress is in session, while the average man is scratching around to try and make enough to pay the next assessment. It is time that the taxpayers woke up and challenged the tax eaters to a battle royal. The south is just learning what the north has known for a long while, namely, that a special privilege can easily be secured by the organized few while the unorganized many find it difficult to protect their rights and guard their interest.

DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says: "Texas now has a bank deposit guaranty or insurance law which is optional and allows a choice between a guaranty fund plan and a bonding company plan. Three or four days ago a dispatch was sent out that the banks were hostile to either plan, and that only one institution in the state had manifested a disposition to accept any such arrangement. Now comes the report that within the two or three days since the measure became a law twenty state banks have accepted its provisions, all choosing the guaranty fund plan. This means, of course, that most or all of the other banks will also come in under the act. At least five states now have some form of deposit guaranty, or mutual insurance of deposits, in operation—Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and one of the Dakotas. Thus upon so much of the issues which divided the parties in the last presidential contest Bryan is proving the winner and Taft the loser. The latter strongly denounced the scheme and presented postal savings banks instead. And nothing is now heard of postal savings banks."

HELP! HELP! HELP!

The retail jewelers of the country, many of whom supported the republican ticket in the last campaign, are sending over the country the following circular:

"The Payne tariff bill, if it becomes a law, will practically wipe the small jewelers out of existence, as the duty on watches will be 175 per cent, which is a tremendous increase over the former Wilson bill (25 per cent) and the Dingley bill (112 per cent); it will also mean ruination to the Swiss watch importers and the closing up of American watch case factories not in the watch trust. Why the watch trust capitalized for over twenty million dollars are forcing this issue, and asking for protection (?) must be plainly seen; at the present time Waltham and Elgin watches are sold in foreign countries from 40 per cent to 60 per cent less than the American retail jeweler can buy them. It is a well known fact that a New York retail watch dealer on lower Broadway has for years reimported Waltham and Elgin watches and

undersold this market. The association is trying to advocate the following amendment to the Payne tariff bill regarding watches:

"Watches sold in foreign countries that are in whole or in part of American manufacture and bearing the name and trade mark of American manufacturers, should come into the United States duty free."

"If this amendment becomes a tariff law it will enable independent dealers to buy trust watches abroad and reimport them for about one-half the present price they now pay for them. Whereby the American people within the shadow of the watch trust factories would only have to pay the price charged in London and other foreign markets."

"The Hon. Henry T. Rainey produced on the floor in congress evidence of the watch trust's methods and it was published in the Congressional Record. The evidence he produced on several occasions stands absolutely uncontradicted today. He has challenged the watch trust representatives in congress for years to deny his statements and none have dared reply. In view of the fact that American watches are being sold abroad ridiculously cheap, compared with prices they are sold at home, it is absurd to insert in the Payne bill these prohibitory provisions, thereby fixing stronger than ever upon American jewelers and upon purchasers of watches in this country, the power of this infamous trust."

A REPUBLICAN WARNING

The St. Albans (Vermont) Messenger, a republican paper, gives this warning to its party:

"And the whole situation simply amounts to this, that if out of this long-continued and earnestly insistent popular demand for a statesmanlike revision of the tariff the republican party is to offer the people a stone when they have asked for bread, then the elections for congress in 1910 and the election for the presidency in 1912 will tell in unmistakable terms how the indignant people of this country rebuke the leaders that have been faithless to their interests. And the republican party can thank Aldrich and his associates for its humiliation. There need be no demagogery about such talk as this, no appeal to prejudice, no play to the galleries. If the events of the past seven or eight years have clearly demonstrated anything at all to the intelligent comprehension of the great mass of American voters, it is the greatest obstacle to the triumphant statesmanship and wise administration of government of the republican party has not been obstruction of political opponents from without, but the shortsighted stubbornness and arrogant greed of the 'interests' within."

THEY MIGHT APOLOGIZE

The Houston (Texas) Post says: "Unfortunately, there is no flareback process by which Mr. Taft can restore to Mr. Bryan the democratic votes that were filched through the Brandenburg fraud known as the Cleveland interview."

But those republican and so-called independent newspapers whose editors stood sponsor for the genuineness of the Brandenburg letter might at least apologize to their readers for their false statements.

A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican recently said "people laugh when the question is asked 'what is a democrat?' but what is a republican?" In its issue of May 17 the Indianapolis News, a republican paper, reproduced the Springfield Republican's remark and answered the question, "what is a republican," in this way: "Why, a man that lets Aldrich do his thinking."

DEMOCRATIC IDEAS

Who says that the republicans of Nebraska are not being educated up to the democratic ideas? Congressma Norris is one of the leaders among the tariff reform republicans in the house, and Senator Brown is urging the adoption of a constitutional amendment authorizing an income tax—carrying out a plank in the last democratic platform. The world does move.

THE WHITER HOUSE

Bishop Bell, who presided at the recent meeting of the United Brethren conference at Canton, Ohio, in introducing Mr. Bryan to the conference coined a new phrase. He said: "I introduce to you the great friend of humanity and the man whose life is enshrined in the Whiter House of Christian effort."