

The Commoner. ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

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IN THE SIXTH MISSOURI DISTRICT

The special election to choose the successor to the late David A. DeArmond, as representative from the Sixth congressional district of Missouri, will be held at the usual voting places on Tuesday, February 1, 1910. The democratic nominee is C. C. Dickinson, of Clinton, Mo. The republican nominee is Phillip S. Griffith. Concerning the republican nominee the Kansas City Star, a newspaper that usually supports the republican ticket, says:

"The general rebellion in the republican party against the arbitrary rule of Aldrich in the senate and Cannon in the house was ignored in the Sixth Missouri district convention. That convention seems to have been organized to bid for federal loaves and fishes rather than to make an honest attempt to gain a republican congressman for Missouri. The delegates applauded the chairman when he said that the nominee should stand by Aldrich and Cannon, and the nominee himself, Phillip S. Griffith, declines to commit himself on the vital issue of Cannonism. The net result is that the machine republicans of the Sixth are pretending to try to place in DeArmond's seat a republican who would re-enforce the faction of the house that stands for subservience to the special interests instead of championship of the rights of the people. The republicans of the Sixth district had some chance to put a representative of their party into congress. They have thrown that chance away. They need democratic votes, but they can not get them on a Cannon platform and with a Cannon candidate. On the contrary, they are sure to lose republican votes for a progressive republican worthy of the name would stay at home or vote for a good democrat any day rather than use his influence to add to the strength of Cannon and the interests that are using him."

Referring to the democratic nominee the Kansas City Star says: "As a member of the legislature Mr. Dickinson has made a clean, honest record."

The Clinton Eye, published at Mr. Dickinson's home, says: "Mr. Dickinson came from Virginia to Clinton many years ago, and when a very young man. For several years he taught a private school of high grade, and there are yet living in this country many of those who profited greatly by his ability as a teacher. He became a lawyer, and was three times elected prosecuting attorney. In more recent years he served one term in the legislature as the representative of Henry county, and served one term in the state senate. In these various official positions he was a most efficient and faithful officer. As a member of the legislature, and as state senator, he was recognized through the

state as one of the foremost men, both in ability, and in industry and devotion to the best interests of the people. No taint or suspicion of subservience to selfish or special interests was ever attached to him. Mr. Dickinson has always been an active democrat in politics, and zealous for the success of his party."

The Clinton Evening Democrat, referring to Mr. Dickinson, says: "He is a man of liberal education, a lawyer of learning and ability, a discerning student of history and of politics, and is in full strength of mature manhood. In 1902, he was elected as the representative of Henry county in the lower branch of the legislature and served with distinction in that body. In 1904, he was elected state senator for the Sixteenth district, and served his district, and the public of the state, with conspicuous zeal and ability in the Forty-second and Forty-third general assemblies. No malign influence nor special and selfish interest moved him from a steadfast adherence to the general good. No man left that body with more of the respect and admiration of those who follow public affairs and the careers of public men. The experience and the acquaintance with public men gained by him as a legislator and his long intelligent study of public interests would quickly make him a man of weight and influence in congress. He has long been known to the leaders of the democracy of Missouri, as an invaluable counselor in all matters of statesmanship and of party policy. He has the intelligence and experience to trace the course of great issues and the courage and qualities of leadership to attract and retain the respect and the aid of other men, in the accomplishment of purposes of moment. The democratic party has, at this time, special need of men in congress whose character and experience qualify them to guide its course by the principles upon which it is founded, and for which it exists."

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

President Taft sent to congress, January 7, a special message advising amendments to the interstate commerce law. The message is summarized by the Associated Press in this way:

Mr. Taft suggests no changes in the Sherman anti-trust law at this time. The anti-trust feature of the message deals solely with the subject of federal charters. The president thinks that an opportunity should be given the big industrial combinations to bring their business into the "zone of lawfulness" by taking out a federal charter under certain prescribed conditions before it becomes necessary to proceed against every corporation about which there is a breath of suspicion.

"It is the duty and the purpose of the executive," says the message, "to direct an investigation by the department of justice, through the grand jury or otherwise, into the history, organization and purpose of all the industrial companies with respect to which there is any reasonable ground for suspicion that they have been organized for a purpose and are conducting business on a plan which is in violation of the anti-trust law."

Such a wholesale investigation and possible prosecution, the president points out, however, would result in serious disturbances and "produce a halt in our present prosperity that will cause suffering and strained circumstances among the innocent many for the faults of the guilty few.

The conditions upon which federal charters are to be granted under the president's recommendations are these:

The issue of stock to be to an amount equal only to the cash paid in on the stock, or if stock be issued for property, then at a fair valuation ascertained under a private supervision of federal authority after a full and complete disclosure of all the facts appertaining to the value of the property and the interest in it of the persons to whom the stock is to be issued.

Corporations taking federal charters are to be prohibited from acquiring and holding stock in other corporations, except for special reasons upon approval by the proper federal authorities. Full reports of operations are to be made to the department of commerce and labor at regular intervals.

The federal incorporation is to be voluntary, but the president feels that most of the corporations will be glad of the opportunity to reform their business methods if given this opportunity. Otherwise, the department of justice will investigate them.

Nothing in the federal charters is to exempt any corporation from prosecution for violation of the anti-trust law.

In that portion of his message dealing with

changes in the interstate commerce laws the president recommends:

The establishment of a United States court of commerce of five judges to hear and determine appeals from the interstate commerce commission, the only appeal from this court lying in the United States supreme court.

The commission is to be relieved of prosecuting cases in the courts, this duty being placed in the department of justice.

Pooling arrangements as to rates to be allowed under direct supervision of the commission.

The commission to be empowered to pass upon freight classifications.

The commission to be empowered to hold up new rates or classifications by railroads until an inquiry can be made as to their reasonableness. If found to be unreasonable, the commission may forbid the increase.

Shippers to be given the choice of established routes on through freight.

From and after the passage of the amendments, it is provided that no railroad shall acquire any stock or interest in a competing line, except that where a road already owns 50 per cent or more of the stock of another road, it may complete the purchase of all the stock. Also in cases where one road is operating another under a lease of more than twenty-five years' duration, it shall have a right to acquire the demised road. Allowing these acquisitions of stock does not exempt any road from prosecution under the anti-trust law.

Stocks must be issued at par value for money paid in or for property or services, rates at full value, under an inquiry by the federal authority, who shall supervise all stock and bond issues.

MR. TAFT AND WALL STREET

Writing from New York to his paper, the Chicago Record-Herald, prior to the Chicago convention, William E. Curtis said:

"There is a strong Taft movement in Wall Street. You would be surprised to hear the enthusiastic indorsements that are given to the secretary of war by the men who are supposed to be violently opposed to the policies of the president."

That sounds familiar. During the month of March the Taft press bureau located at Columbus, O., sent out, according to the Washington Herald, printed slips bearing these headlines: "Business Hope Lies on Taft." "Assert Taft is Best Candidate." "Big Wall Street House Calls on Financial Interests to Assist in Nomination." Following are extracts from the Taft circular: "Mr. Taft's long record is distinctly against any conclusion that he would continue Mr. Roosevelt's methods. He has displayed brains, ability, good judgment, and, above all, sanity, in the great and successful accomplishments of his career. We must not lose sight of the fact that there is a temperamental difference in the two men, Roosevelt and Taft. By nature and by training, as a lawyer and as a judge, Mr. Taft has always manifested a thoughtful attitude in his judgment, and a great deliberation and conservatism in his actions. Neither is it conceivable that a man of his force of character would be controlled, when in the full power of the presidency, by any outside personality."

In its issue of March 9, the Washington Herald printed an interview with General Kiefer, a member of congress, in which he said that he was for Taft and did not believe that if elected he would "too closely follow Roosevelt's ideas." It will be remembered that these reports greatly disturbed Mr. Taft and his managers and they took pains to say that the circular from the Taft headquarters had been issued by a subordinate at the Columbus office.—From the Democratic Campaign Book of 1908.

One Washington dispatch informs the public that President Taft is preparing his special message on the subject of the conservation of natural resources and that in the preparation of this message he has the help of Secretary Ballinger. Congress may investigate to its heart's content but Mr. Ballinger has the president's ear.