

itself. An unquiet, dissatisfied, suspicious public mind is the public mind of today.

"You can defeat this amendment. In view of the class of men who are joining the crusade against it I think you will defeat it. The forces which propose to encompass its defeat will not stop on the hither side of the most disreputable methods to accomplish their purpose. But when the people learn what you have really done, the manner in which this has been manipulated, it will go far toward exciting to renewed force that feeling of wrath, of class hatred already too strong among us. It will do much to foster disrespect for and breed disloyalty to the government. When those who are ill able to meet the burdens of government see its enormous expenditures continue to increase larger armies and larger navies, increased burdens everywhere, and learn furthermore that all this must be met by a tax on consumption while incomes go untaxed they will have little mercy with you in the hour in which you must plead with them against radical changes in the government. I do not know how long we can deal with a patient people in this way. But I venture to prophesy not much longer.

"I hope, therefore, the governors and legislatures of this country will be brave enough to do their duty in this matter. It is time the people in this broad land bestir themselves upon this vital question before it is too late to do so. It would be nothing less than a catastrophe if this amendment should be defeated, if we are going also to be cut off from an appeal to the court. This is in every sense the people's fight."

Senator Borah outlined his conclusion as follows:

First—That the proposed amendment adds nothing to the taxing power of the national government. This power was complete, unfettered, plenary before. It can be no more than that should the proposed amendment be adopted.

Second—The proposed amendment does not deal or propose to deal with the question of power which is already complete, but simply with the manner and method of its exercise and use of that power.

Third—No one has ever questioned the power of the national government to lay an income tax, for, as was said by Justice White, the question has always been "whether an admittedly unlimited power to tax has been used according to the instruction as to method," and it was to remedy the method alone that the amendment was submitted.

Fourth—The words "from whatever source" add nothing to the force of the amendment. It would, in constitutional parlance, be just the same if it said "to lay and collect taxes on incomes without apportionment," for who could then say that you would not have the right to lay taxes upon all incomes. The present taxing power would not be a particle stronger if it said to levy and collect taxes upon all property from whatever source.

Fifth—To construe the proposed amendment so as to enable us to tax the instrumentalities of the state would do violence to the rules laid down by the supreme court for a hundred years, wrench the whole institution from its harmonious proportions and destroy the object and purpose for which the whole instrument was framed.

Sixth—To construe it to cover those incomes from sources within the jurisdiction and control of the sovereignty laying the tax is to construe it in harmony with the principles given us by Marshall and followed from that hour to this.

#### ALDRICH WILL ATTEND TO IT

The Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia North American says that there will be an investigation as to the cause of the high cost of living adding: "But Mr. Aldrich has not abandoned his determination to control the investigation and its results." Isn't that statement just a bit superfluous? Why should not a genius who controls the United States senate, dominates the republican party and carries a latch key to the White House, have his way with a little thing like an investigating committee?

*Five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner for \$3---60 cents each*

## Where the Old Ship is Leaking

Wade H. Ellis of Ohio has resigned as an assistant attorney general in order to accept the chairmanship of the republican executive committee of Ohio. The White House has issued a statement saying:

"Mr. Vorys, the member of the national committee from Ohio; Mr. Walter Brown, chairman of the republican state central committee, and Mr. Henry A. Williams, chairman of the republican state executive committee, have been canvassing among the republicans of Ohio to determine who shall succeed Mr. Williams upon the resignation which he is obliged to tender.

"After a visit to Washington and full conference with the senators the conclusion was reached that the man best qualified to assume the cares of the office as chairman of the executive committee at this time was Mr. Ellis, and therefore the president was applied to consent to Mr. Ellis' resignation from his position as assistant to the attorney general to take the duties of the chairmanship of the committee.

"The president was very loath to lose the services of Mr. Ellis from the department of justice, where he is engaged in important work, but as Mr. Ellis was willing to make the sacrifice the president did not feel that he could insist in retaining him."

#### BRISTOW GETTING ANXIOUS

Washington, February 7.—Senator Bristow is growing anxious about the fate of his resolution providing for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people. Today he asked Chairman Clark of the committee on judiciary when that committee would report the resolution, and Mr. Clark was not able to make definite reply.

"Is there any prospect that the question will be considered?" asked Mr. Bristow.

"There is," responded Mr. Clark.

Washington, February 8.—In connection with a resolution offered by Senator Dolliver providing for the printing of a detailed statement of the expenditures of the agricultural department there was an incidental discussion of the forestry bureau in the senate today. The resolution was adopted. Senator Dixon of Montana raised the question as to why the agricultural department had been singled out, and in doing so he complained of discrimination against the department because of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. If the expense account of the forestry bureau was to be printed he wanted the accounts of the land office printed also. He wanted to know what had been done with the million dollars appropriated for special agents.

He also would have the postoffice department and other department accounts printed. He desired especially to know whether it was true that the government was paying the railroads nine cents a pound for carrying matter for which express companies paid one-half cent.

#### JOY ARRIVES

Washington, February 8.—Caustic criticism and dry humor, intermingled in remarks by Representative Macon of Arkansas in the house today, his subject being the bill of expenditures contracted by the immigration commission upon its recent European trip. Mr. Macon was twice called to account for exceeding the limits of parliamentary debate, only his quick retraction averting disciplining by the house. In urging the adoption of his resolution providing for an investigation he charged the commission with many extravagances including an indulgence in wine and luxuries of living, as well as "joy rides."

#### ALDRICH AND TAFT CONFER

Washington, February 10.—A conference held at the White House last night between President Taft and Senator Aldrich was only the forerunner of others in the near future, the outcome of which probably will be the early issue of a statement dealing with a situation which is discussed here whenever two or three are gathered together, yet, which apparently nobody thus far has deemed it prudent to make the subject of public utterance. That situation relates to the possible consequences, financial, industrial and political, hanging on the decisions of the supreme court of the United States in

the pending cases of the American Tobacco company and the Standard Oil company.

The immediate subject of last night's conference between the president and Mr. Aldrich was the administration's proposed amendments to the interstate commerce law, but the effects of the court's decisions in the tobacco and oil cases were discussed and will be further discussed Monday.

Washington, February 6.—(Special to the New York World.)—The insurgents of the senate as a body are on their good behavior. They are not trusted and will not be permitted to share in party secrets or councils. The usual conference in matters of legislation are not being held. There has not been a general meeting of republicans since Mr. LaFollette cut loose against the Aldrich-Vreeland currency bill. A watchful eye is kept on every movement of the insurgents, and war will be opened against them at the first symptom of pernicious activity.

Senator Dick of Ohio was long ago chosen to open the general attack on the insurgents. His text was presented to the senate, and now lies on the table subject to his call. It consists of a letter signed by Senators LaFollette, Beveridge, Clapp and Cummins, approving a propaganda of progressive republicanism which was being systematically sent out by a chosen agent to newspapers through the western country, beginning with Ohio.

Senator Dick has tossed together a bitter arraignment of the progressives, showing wherein they separate from their party associates and can no longer be recognized as legitimate republicans. He gave notice of this speech some time ago, when offering the letter. It has not been abandoned, only postponed until some untoward act of the progressives makes its delivery timely.

Senator Penrose also has an armful of rocks ready to throw at the insurgents. Senators Aldrich and Hale have collected a mass of evidence against them. In fact the regulars are preparing themselves for an encounter which they regard as inevitable.

Meanwhile, the insurgents are not committing overt acts. They have all remained comparatively quiet. Mr. LaFollette has effaced himself and takes little part in the proceedings. He has opened his mouth but seldom since congress convened last December, and that only on routine subjects. Senator Cummins, however, is beginning to show some disposition to irritate the elder statesmen.

Washington, February 10.—President Taft's visit to New York on Saturday, it is said, will be made the occasion of an important political conference regarding New York state conditions. This conference probably will take place at the home of Lloyd C. Griscom, the new chairman of the New York county republican committee. Efforts will be made to have Governor Hughes attend the conference. The republicans are said to be anxious to get a candidate for governor who will have the support both of President Taft and Governor Hughes.

Washington, February 11.—The fact that an independent steamship line to the Isthmus of Panama on the Pacific coast would enter into competition with trans-continental railroads was given as a reason today for the rejection by Secretary of War Dickinson of an offer made to the government by a syndicate of Baltimoreans.

The details of the offer were given to the senate committee on inter-oceanic canals by B. N. Baker, former president of a Baltimore line, in the hearing of the Flint-McLachan bill for the establishment of a government-owned line in west coast.

Mr. Baker said that when the Pacific Mail Steamship company gave notice that it would insist upon receiving 70 per cent of the business via the Isthmus, instead of the 50 per cent it had received for a number of years, that he offered to put on a line if he was given a mail contract similar to those given other lines. Such a line as he proposed to establish, said Mr. Baker, would have connected with the government vessels between New York and Colon.

"Why was your offer rejected?" asked Senator Bristow.

Mr. Baker said that the secretary of war was of the opinion he had no jurisdiction in the matter. He added that he understood Postmaster General Hitchcock would have favored the plan if it had met with the approval of the head of the war department.

"The whole thing here is that the United States does not intend to do anything to hurt the transcontinental railroads," ejaculated Mr. Bristow.