

its right to public confidence and had ceased to be of service to the people.

Who will deny that the republican party, judged by its record since the last presidential election, has demonstrated that it is the pliant tool of special interests and can not be depended upon to serve the people?

The question is, is the democratic party fit for such service. It has all the fundamental principles necessary to such service and if faithful to those principles it will serve the people. Upon the rank and file will devolve the duty of seeing to it that the party is an agent for the public good.

#### "VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION"

Senator Lodge is chairman of the senate committee having charge of the duty of investigating the high cost of living under the republican administration. Referring to the committee proceedings, an Associated Press dispatch says:

"Contrary to expectations, it now appears unlikely that hearings will be held by the committee. Chairman Lodge is of the opinion that more can be accomplished by calling experts in the various executive departments which have special knowledge of the subjects to be proposed."

This will be a good way of keeping out any information that would shock the sensibilities of republican statesmen. The committee will call a few of Mr. Taft's appointees, otherwise known as "experts" and the result will be whatever suits the administration's purpose. In the meantime, however, the cost of living is going higher and higher and the people know where to place the blame.

#### KENTUCKY AND THE INCOME TAX

The Kentucky state senate, by a vote of 17 to 17, defeated the resolution to ratify the proposed income tax amendment to the federal constitution. Thus Kentucky is the third southern state to throw its efforts against this most equitable plan of taxation. Georgia first, Virginia second, Kentucky third. It would seem from this that the representatives of plutocracy knew what they were talking about when they declared that the income tax amendment was doomed. Democrats everywhere will, however, keenly regret that any democratic legislature aided in the destruction of this great reform.

#### MR. BRYAN'S SPEECHES

Russell Herbert Distin, Orford, N. H., writes: "I am in receipt of the two volumes of Mr. Bryan's speeches in which I find very interesting reading and sincerely wish the thousands who have been led to misunderstand Mr. Bryan's efforts in behalf of the masses of common people (through the misinterpretation by special privilege and its following) would get them into their homes and read them, I am sure no unprejudiced mind would harbor further doubt of his sincerity and his inestimable worth to the common country."

#### WHY NOT DEPEW?

A republican paper refers sneeringly to Chauncey M. Depew's announcement that he will be a candidate for re-election to the senate. This paper refers to the fact that Senator Depew was a bit smirched in the insurance investigation and it thinks that this should cause Mr. Depew's retirement to private life. The same paper, however, has had sneers for Glavis and Pinchot and high praise for Secretary of the Interior Ballinger. If Mr. Ballinger is qualified for a place in the president's cabinet why not "Depew for the senate?"

#### CAN YOU HELP THIS FATHER?

Any person knowing the whereabouts of one Leon Ernest Hill (formerly of Knowlesville, New York) who left home about seven years ago, will confer a great favor by sending information to his anxious father, Austin L. Hill, R. R. No. 23, Box 18, Knowlesville, Orleans County, New York.

#### A SIMPLE REPUBLICAN EDITOR

The Pittsburg Press, a republican paper of the standpat variety, has concluded that there is something worse than insurgency and that Cannonism is the thing. The Press says:

"Insurgency of the Cummins-LaFollette type is not popular among republicans in Pennsylvania, but neither is Cannonism. This is the reflection uppermost in the average mind in a reading of the speech delivered by Speaker Cannon last evening at Kansas City.

"Whether the insurgents have placed themselves beyond the pale of the republican party

is an open question. Our own impression is that notwithstanding the bitter denunciation the speaker launches at them, they are not doing the party as great an injury as he is. At least one of their foremost leaders, Mr. LaFollette, bears all the earmarks of a demagogue, and there are others among them who, if not deliberate charlatans, may at least be regarded as mere time-servers, not troubling themselves to be too nice as to the means by which they cultivate popularity, and joining the hue and cry against the protective tariff and other party measures not because of a conviction that the tariff is not the best thing for the country but because they think they can get votes in their own sections by being against it. But all parties are obliged now and then to contend with this sort of local pettiness. To punish it by instant excommunication would be in nine cases out of ten highly impolitic, and in any event it would be injudicious to have a person of as questionable political repute as Mr. Cannon issuing the bull.

"The insurgents are luckier than they deserve to be in having Mr. Cannon head the fight against them. As a ring politician of particularly offensive method, and as a corporation lobbyist in undeservedly high place, he constantly grows in unpopularity. If the insurgents are to be rendered as harmless as possible, it would be well for Cannon not to be too conspicuous in his hostility to them."

It is strange that a man with sufficient intelligence to edit a daily newspaper can not understand that Cannonism is simply a fair representative of republican party method. Is it not strange that while the editor of the Pittsburg Press regards Mr. LaFollette as a demagogue, several million American citizens regard him as a high-minded statesman? If the Press editor would but look over his party he would find that the men who, like LaFollette are engaged in so-called insurgency, are merely making patriotic protests against the system which, if unchecked, will destroy popular government in America; and the Press editor will find that Cannonism as well as Aldrichism and, if you please, Taftism, is merely the concentrated efforts of the special interests to prey upon the people. If the editor of the Pittsburg Press regards Cannon as "a corporation lobbyist in a deservedly high place" how does he regard Nelson A. Aldrich in the senate?

#### THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

The Japan Magazine, published at Tokio, Japan, made its appearance March, 1910. The proprietors are B. Wilfrid Fleisher and Seishin Hirayama. The editors are Zoe Kincaid and Y. Bryan Yamashita.

Mr. Yamashita, one of the editors of this magazine is the young man who, several years ago, visited Lincoln and took up his abode in Mr. Bryan's home. He attended the Nebraska State University and pursued his studies with marked industry, spending much of his time in Mr. Bryan's library and availing himself of every opportunity to improve his mind and fortify himself for his chosen life work. His ambition was, and is, to serve the people of Japan and help them on to better and higher individual and national life. Needless to say that Mr. Bryan has always felt the deepest interest in the welfare of this fine, young man. Needless to say that the magazine of which he is one of the editors, has The Commoner's best wishes for a highly successful career. The initial number and the second number give great promise. The matter is well arranged, the typographical appearance is attractive and the subjects dealt with are such as will entertain and instruct men and women of all nationalities.

Success to Mr. Yamashita and his magazine. May it continue to improve and may its editors never lose courage in the battle for the public welfare or faith in ultimate victory for their good efforts.

#### FOUR YEARS MORE

At the Lincoln dinner held at New York City, Governor Hughes paid a high eulogy to President Taft, and formally sprung his boom for re-election. The governor referred to Mr. Taft as "the greatest man the presidential chair has held in the past quarter of a century."

What! Greater, than his maker, the South African sure-shot?

All new and renewal subscribers to The Commoner during the month of March will receive a year's subscription to the national farm paper, the American Homestead, without additional charge. Give your friends an opportunity to join you in accepting this offer.

## Where the Old Ship is Leaking

#### THANKFUL FOR SMALL FAVORS

The Washington correspondent for the New York World tells this story of the president: William H. Taft laid down the last paper of the heap that accumulated on his desk on the first day of the second year of his presidency today and chuckled. His grin broadened into a smile, and that developed into a roar of laughter.

"How do I feel after my first year in the president's office, you ask?" he said to a caller who had congratulated him on the anniversary. "Well, I'll tell you how I feel," and he laughed again. "I feel just about like the preacher who passed the hat through his congregation and brought it back to the pulpit empty, and then thanked God that he had got his hat back."

#### INDIANA, APRIL 15

Washington dispatch to the New York World: Senator Beveridge is between the devil and the deep sea trying to decide whether it is politically expedient to make his Indiana state convention, which will meet on April 15, eat out of the president's hand or permit it to go ahead and kick holes in the Payne tariff bill and itself over the traces of the republican party. Senator Beveridge will run the convention, and it will do just what Mr. Beveridge wants. President Taft has expressed the desire that Indiana act nice in her convention, which means to keep the party solid, indorse the tariff and work for progress in the republican ranks. Whether it will do so is up to Senator Beveridge. And last, but not least, Mr. Beveridge's word to that convention may decide something extremely important to Mr. Beveridge, to wit: In words and figures—1—United States senator—count him —1.

#### ANOTHER RAILROAD LAWYER

Washington dispatch to the Philadelphia North American:

William S. Kenyon, general counsel of the Illinois Central railroad, has been selected by President Taft to succeed Wade H. Ellis as assistant attorney general in charge of trust prosecutions. The appointment will bring into the service of the government another of the group of big railroad lawyers from Chicago.

Lloyd H. Bowers, now solicitor general of the United States, was formerly general counsel of the Chicago Northwestern; Secretary of War Dickinson was general counsel of the Illinois Central, preceding in that position Mr. Kenyon, and now Mr. Kenyon comes also to the department of justice.

Unlike the others, however, Kenyon is declared to be a progressive republican, seeking an opportunity to serve the public. His selection was urged by Senator Dolliver of Iowa, and is heartily commended by Senator Cummins.

#### WHICH SIDE WILL ROOSEVELT TAKE?

The Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia North American says that President Taft and other members of his cabinet selected Senator Root as the man to present the Taft side of the "present day controversy" to Theodore Roosevelt. Consequently Senator Root has written a long letter to Mr. Roosevelt telling him just what has been done and urging him to stand by Taft. The North American's correspondent says:

"The congressional campaign committee, which has already started a fight, not against the democrats, but against the progressive republicans, has announced that Mr. Roosevelt will aid in the campaign for a republican congress. A statement published here today cites Nicholas Longworth, Senator Lodge and William Loeb as authorities for the statement that the former president will approve all that has been done by his successor, and will give his influence and support to the present policies of Mr. Taft.

"Men even closer to Roosevelt than those mentioned do not hesitate to predict that he will do nothing of the kind, and they base this prediction upon their confidence that Mr. Roosevelt will not abandon the principles he upheld while he was president and, therefore, that he can never condone the absolute surrender of President Taft to Aldrich and Cannon and the predatory interests which these two represent.

"But, so far as any knowledge is concerned of the probable stand to be taken by Mr. Roose-