The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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WILLIAM J. BRYAN, Editor and Proprietor
CHARLES W. BRYAN, Publisher
RICHARD L. METCALFE, Associate Editor
Editorial Rooms and Business Office 324-330 South 12th Street

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The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of April. Take advantage of this offer at once and send in your renewal.

In base ball parlance Secretary Ballinger should score the Pinchot testimony as "too hot to handle."

Farmers should test their seed corn. And everybody should test their congressional candidates this year.

Those Rooseveltian libel suits panned out very much like some of his alleged trust busting performances.

The wool schedule of the tariff bill was evidently framed by men who consider the body politics as their mutton.

Secretary Ballinger said he would not retire under fire, but retiring under fire is more satisfying than being fired.

The second class postal rates do not need increasing nearly so much as the postal department needs efficient management.

There are several senators who could not, for the life of them, retire as gracefully as did Senator Gordon, although the country would dearly love to see them try.

The steam shovelers' union is voting on a strike proposition. If the strike carries what will that eminent steam shoveler, William Howard Taft, do when the order comes?

Explanations as to the high cost of living that come from the gentlemen most interested in the enactment of the Aldrich-Cannon tariff should be well discounted before being accepted.

Even after a 50 per cent raise in salary congressmen complain that they can not make ends meet. We know a few fellows out in this country who would be glad to take the congressional increase and struggle along until prices readjust themselves to normal.

Where the Old Ship is Leaking

INSURGENT APOLOGIES

Norris of Nebraska and other insurgents who voted to keep Cannon in the speaker's chair have been very busy apologizing for their vote. Mr. Norris, in a newspaper interview, said that had they ousted Cannon "there would have been chaos in the house."

PINCHOT TO MEET ROOSEVELT?

Gifford Pinchot sailed for Europe many days ago and Washington rumor has it that he went in response to a cablegram asking him to meet Theodore Roosevelt. It is presumed that the two men will talk over Mr. Taft's administration.

REVOLUTION IN MASSACHUSETTS

Eugene N. Foss of Boston, democrat, was elected to congress over William R. Buchanan of Brockton in a special election March 22. The tariff was the issue, Mr. Foss making much of his advocacy of reciprocity with Canada. Two years ago the republican candidate was elected in this district by 14,250. This year the democratic candidate carries it by 5,840. It was a revolution, the significance of which men of all parties admit.

Mr. Foss, in a statement, declared the result of the election showed a demand by the people that the republican party fulfill its pledge for an honest reduction of the tariff.

"It is a demand for the immediate repeal of section two, of the Payne-Aldrich act, which substitutes retaliation for reciprocity and threatens commercial warfare with our best customers," he said.

The defeated candidate, William R. Buchanan, said: "If the result will serve to convince the republican leaders at Washington that something must be speedily accomplished in the way of lowering the cost of living, I shall feel that my defeat has not been without value."

Eugene N. Foss is a brother of George Edmund Foss, now a republican member of the house from Illinois. The republican Foss has been a member of congress for the past fifteen years.

AN INDIGNANT REPUBLICAN

Lee, Mass., March 22.—Calling President Taft a "hot supper artist," R. D. Andrews, a wealthy manufacturer here, is offering to bet $10,000 today that Mayor Gaynor, of New York, will be the next president of the United States, barring death.

"The country is tired of Taft and taffy," said Andrews. "Everyone of the conservative republicans is disappointed in Taft. What we hoped for was a man on the job and not a president chasing around to act as a sideshow for a baseball game, a promoter of golf, a hot supper artist. The whole country is tired of it."—United Press dispatch.

A PATHETIC PLEA

President Taft made a bitter attack on the press in his speech before the Chicago Press club. A few days later he addressed five hundred newspaper men at the New York Press club. On this occasion Mr. Taft made a remarkable speech. The United Press report gives the following account of the president's remarks on this occasion:

"Reference has been made by your chairman, Mr. Hennessy, to a speech I made before the Chicago newspaper club. I did not know exactly what kind of speech I was going to make there any more than I do now, but the chairman of the Chicago club whispered to me as I got up to speak: 'They want to hear about the press, so roast them.' And I am bound to say that the task was not so difficult.

"This being president of the United States presents a good many sensations to one who came into the office under the conditions that surrounded my coming in. I had been on the bench for twelve years, and I think the bench is the only place in the country that is free from severe criticism by the press. And having had that sort of training, it is a little hard for me to get used to any other kind of treatment. I am being educated, but there are times at the White House when you are exercising what is supposed to be the power of the presidency, when you get really very, very discouraged.

"Things don't go right. Your motives are misconstrued and then you take a long walk and you say to yourself: 'There is one thing, anyhow—they can not deprive your children and your descendants of having your picture on the walls of the White House paid for by congress.'

"And then you go home and look at the picture of Teddy and the picture of Grover Cleveland and of Abraham Lincoln and the others. You have been there, and you come to the conclusion that even that is not consoling.

"But the truth is the sensations a man has, under the pressure of which he expresses himself with considerable heat, pass.

"I don't go to the point of saying much matters. That isn't true. I believe a good many things matter a great deal, but I do think that a long experience with respect to the criticism of public men will make a man feel to be less important the injustice, if there be injustice, in such criticism, vastly less important than they seem to be when they are cutting their hide, so to speak."

Mr. Taft paid a compliment to the newspaper men who travel with him wherever he goes. This brought him naturally to a defense of his custom of traveling.

"This traveling business, I believe," he said, "has been made the subject of some criticism. Well, I am a traveler. I got into the presidency by traveling and I can't get over the habit. When you are being hammered as sometimes I have been in Washington, not only by the press but by members of your own party in Washington and feel there isn't anything quite right that you can do, the pleasure of going out into the country, of going into a city that has not seen a president for twenty years, and then makes a fuss over him, in order to prove to him that there is somebody that does not know of his defects, is a pleasure that I don't like to forego."

PARSONS ADMITS THE LEAKING

Herbert Parsons, former president of the republican county committee of New York and now a republican member of congress, delivered a speech at a republican banquet in New York City, March 22. The United Press quotes Mr. Parsons as saying:

"If we do not clean up things in our own party the people will clean the party out, and deservedly so. A crisis exists because the electorate of the party believe there has not been honesty and common decency on the part of the men in important positions who call themselves republicans. Whatever judgment senators may feel in conscience bound to give in the trial now proceeding at Albany, the public is convinced that there has been crookedness in high places. Many men deplore such a revelation. I do not. For years, those of us active in politics have heard of these things. The thought of them has nauseated us. The proof was lacking as is so often the case in politics, though we privately believed in the truth of the rumor. Now we have a chance to house-clean. An accident has given us the opportunity."

TAFT AND ALDRICH SWAP

Mr. Taft delivered an address at Providence, R. I., March 22. Senator Aldrich was on the platform. The United Press report of that meeting says:

"Taft lauded the so-called 'general manager of the United States,' and Aldrich in turn swore fealty to the Taft policies and promised 'my support in whatever station of public life I may be.' In fact, the dinner at Providence took on a good deal of the appearance of a 'love feast.'"

GRAFT

Twenty persons in Pittsburg have thus far confessed and thirty-seven have been indicted in connection with the graft charges brought against members and former members of the Pittsburg city council. Developments show that bribery has been going on for many years.

TAFT'S SPEECHES CRITICISED

President Taft's speech in New York yesterday is the subject of very general comment this morning. Besides apologizing to newspaper men for his recent roast of the fraternity, he placed the responsibility for it upon the chairman of the Chicago meeting. The chairman, just as he arose to speak, whispered to him, "roast the correspondents," and he proceeded to do so as though he was laboring under wrongs at their pens that drove him to public condemnation. Then he spoke of his disappointments, his chagrin, his wounded pride, etc., etc., along that line, admitting that he felt he was not up to the country's expectations. While he