

a law and no more than in the matter of enacting tariff laws. The charge of republican extravagance is a mole hill in comparison to democratic thievery embodied in this bill imitating republican thievery. I for one, do not care to train with men who pretend to call themselves democrats and do and act like republicans, and are attached to the republican kite. Charge the republicans with graft and extravagance, and then try to pay it off with money extorted from the people in favor of and for a privileged few (not more than 22,000.) "Consistency, thou art a jewel." I tell you, Mr. Anderson, the kind of a representative for the people I like is, one having the principle of justice and equality for all mankind, black or white, bond or free, rich or poor, and putting at all times that principle in practice, a principle that will protect the weak as well as the strong. Give us men, true men, men tall in honesty, square shouldered men, without fear. Statesmen and not politicians. Vote for free wool. Down with the 20 per cent ad valorem tax steal. Yours truly,

M. W. CHASE.

ALABAMA AND THE INCOME TAX

Editor of The Commoner: In the issue of The Commoner of date, February 17, 1911, under the title, "Prospects for Income Tax Law" is this sentence:

"Alabama, which was one of the few southern states originally regarded as doubtful, on account of the enormous influence exercised there by New York capital, ratified the income tax last July, after a spirited struggle which occupied the lower house almost a week."

Your informant was very ignorant, careless about the accuracy of his statements, or worse.

When it was generally understood that Governor Comer would call the legislature to meet in special session, several of our congressmen and others requested him to name the ratification of the Sixteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States in his call, as it requires a two-third vote of each house to legislate on any subject not included in the governor's proclamation calling a special session.

The governor did not include this in his proclamation, saying that there would be no opposition to the ratification.

I wrote the joint resolution, ratifying the Sixteenth amendment and introduced it into the house immediately after the organization was complete, on the first day of that session, July 27, 1909.

The resolution was referred to the committee on the judiciary, of which I was the chairman, and at the first meeting of that committee, this resolution was considered and unanimously ordered reported to the house with a favorable report, recommending its passage.

I briefly explained the nature of the amendment and the necessity of expressly conferring upon congress the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, to avoid the adverse decision of the supreme court of the United States.

Several questions were asked me by members, one of which, I remember, was that if that power were conferred, could not congress lay a tax on all incomes, however small? I answered that congress could do so, but judging from the past actions of congress on the subject, I did not believe it would lay a tax on any income, less than \$5,000 a year.

Not a word was said against the passage of the resolution, and on calling the roll, it was passed. Yeas, 81; nays, 0.

On my motion, it was sent forthwith to the senate, without engrossment.

It was read the first time in the senate on the fifth day and referred to the standing committee on the "constitution and constitutional revision and amendment," which committee reported it favorably to the senate, and on the eleventh day it passed the senate. Yeas, 23; nays, 0.

Not only did Alabama thus take the first place in ratifying the Sixteenth amendment, but she has the distinction of having done so unanimously.

The same legislaure also passed by a unanimous vote, a joint resolution requesting congress to submit to the states an amendment to the constitution, providing for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people.

Can The Commoner point out another legislature that was unanimously democratic, on two of the most important organic reforms advocated by the democratic party?

When writing about Alabama democrats The Commoner should always remember that the delegates to the national democratic convention, in Denver, 1908, were instructed by the direct

vote of the democrats, in a party primary election, by an overwhelming majority, to vote for William Jennings Bryan, as our nominee for president.

SAMUEL WISE JOHN.

Birmingham, Ala., March 22, 1911.

IN VIRGINIA

They are after Senator Martin in Virginia. Congressman William A. Jones, Mr. Martin's opponent, read to the Virginia people five letters written by the superintendent of the Southern Railway company to Senator Martin and four prominent railway men of Virginia. These indicate that before Senator Martin was elected to the senate he was engaged in distributing political funds for the railroads. The following letter written to General Logan, president of the Richmond and Danville railroad, which subsequently became the Southern railroad, tells of Mr. Martin's close association with the railroad lobby:

"November 23, 1891.—Gen. T. M. Logan, Room 142, No. 80 Broadway, New York, N. Y. My Dear Sir: Mr. Munford advises me that Major Myers has just paid over to Mr. Ellyson \$500, and he is afraid that is all that can be expected from that source. I trust Munford is mistaken, for unless Major Myers comes up with the full amount it will embarrass matters very much, for, knowing full well what the situation required, and acting in good faith for the best interests of all concerned, I assured Mr. Ellyson that he could count upon the full thousand, and I know he made his arrangements based upon that, and I feel pledged to see that the amount is forthcoming.

"In everything which went on at Richmond Mr. Ellyson acted in the most thorough good faith toward us, and was really of infinite assistance to us, and I know he can be depended upon to help us this winter. Martin and I were thoroughly impressed with the fair manner he dealt with us, and I do not want him disappointed in this manner, and unless Major Myers comes up with the additional \$500 we will certainly have to provide it.

"Write this for your information, as I have no doubt you will have an opportunity of bringing the matter to Major Myers's attention in its proper light. Yours truly,

"J. S. B. THOMPSON."

No wonder the Martin forces are demoralized. The people of Virginia are entitled to be represented in the senate by a free man. Mr. Martin does not fill the bill.

PROFITS OF THE MONEY TRUST

The Fifth Avenue bank of New York, is accounted a Morgan institution, being controlled by interests friendly to him. The other day the bank declared the regular quarterly dividend of 25 per cent and a special dividend of 135 per cent, both payable on July 1. In 1910 the bank paid an extra dividend of 130 per cent. In 1907 a special declaration of 150 per cent was paid out of earnings for 1906. In 1908 the extra dividend was 160 and in 1909 125 per cent.

The years 1907-8 were the panic years. It was in 1907 that "Patriot" Morgan came to the defense of his country, to save it from widespread financial disaster. In that year the gross dividends were 250 per cent, and in 1908 260 per cent. The "patriot" was well rewarded for his "unselfishness." Making \$2.60 a year on every dollar invested—not to mention the share of profits set aside to surplus—enables Mr. Morgan to gather the art treasures of the world into his possession and to be decorated with the titles of royalty.

The Fifth avenue is only one of Mr. Morgan's banks. There are others whose earnings are even larger.—Dubuque (Ia.) Telegraph-Herald.

ON THE FIRING LINE

Charles H. Brown, 153 West Elm Street, Canton, Ill., June 19, 1911.—It is a pleasure to report that we are on the firing line for progressive democracy in this country. We appreciate what Mr. Bryan is doing to keep the party a party of the people and not of plutocracy. Come what will, we propose to stand by Mr. Bryan.

TUNNELLING THE MOUNTAIN

Suppose Canada was separated from the United States by a mountain range, would any one oppose the construction of tunnels? Those who oppose a reduction of the tariff oppose the tunnelling of the artificial mountain range which legislators have, in their folly, reared between us and our northern neighbor.

APPRECIATED IN NORTH CAROLINA

A. H. Redding, M. D.—North Carolina. I am sending herewith my renewal to The Commoner and while doing so I beg to express my appreciation of the great and good work The Commoner is doing for the common people—especially on lines of civic righteousness, as expressed by Mr. Bryan's stand on free wool and many other matters of a similar character which show Mr. Bryan to be a statesman rather than a politician in the sense that most politicians are now classed. Now while the plutocratic element seem to be leading to some extent in both branches of congress and some of our representatives and senators have expressed themselves as satisfied with the wool schedule as presented by Underwood, et al., and I had thought some of these were good democrats, but now I have decided they were politicians and not statesmen. While I know the great commoner does not need any of this comment from me, I just feel like I desired to express myself in these lines very briefly. Wishing The Commoner a glorious and lasting career I beg to remain yours for civic righteousness with the hope that Mr. Bryan will live until he sees many more of his policies enacted into law. He has several doing well now and it seems there is much more for him yet to do.

CHANCE TO RETIRE A LUMBER SENATOR

Thanks to the several Lorimer investigations, Edward L. Hines, head of the National Association of Lumber Manufacturers, needs no introduction. Adversity does not diminish his effrontery. As recently as May 25, on the occasion of the annual meeting of his association, he uttered these words:

"* * * The eminent chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, Honorable Oscar W. Underwood, has stated, I am reliably informed, that in his personal opinion lumber is a fit commodity for the imposition of a revenue duty * * *"

It is safe to say that if he thought it worth while, Mr. Underwood would be quick to repudiate Mr. Hine's right to convey his views on free lumber or any other subject. Mr. Hines seems to know the private views of the senate finance committee also:

"Now that the bill is in the senate, under discussion in the finance committee, the lumber industry has made an extremely favorable impression on that committee, and it is believed that not to exceed three of its memberships of fifteen are really in favor of the bill, and that a similar situation prevails in the senate as a whole."

The state of North Carolina will shortly have an opportunity of retiring one of the most undesirable of the lumber senators. Simmons ought to be defeated. It is a pity the field against him is so divided.—Mark Sullivan in Collier's Weekly.

OF COURSE

The New York Independent says that the democratic party's chances for 1912 would be greatly strengthened by a marked increase in the number of democrats who are willing to reject Mr. Bryan's advice. In the same issue the Independent commends the decisions in the Standard Oil and tobacco trust cases, sneers at Justice Harlan and commends the suggestion made by Mr. Gary of the steel trust for federal incorporation.

The kind of democracy the Independent would build up would justify the nomination of John D. Rockefeller for president and J. Pierpont Morgan for vice president.

BRYAN IS NO "GLOOM"

Alton B. Parker's opinion of democratic chances of success in the next national campaign does not furnish much encouragement to his party. Alton must be a disciple of "Gloomy Gus." He has been defeated but once, and Bryan, who has been defeated three times, still manifests a hopefulness akin to that always displayed by "Happy."—Greensboro (N. C.) Telegram.