

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY

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

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor
RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor

CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher
Editorial Rooms and Business Office, 324-330 South 12th Street

One Year.....\$1.00
Six Months......50
In Clubs of Five or more, per year.. .75

Three Months..... .25
Single Copy..... .05
Sample Copies Free.
Foreign Post, 5c Extra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by post-office money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 21, '12 means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1912. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

ADVERTISING—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Perkins is not proving a success as Exhibit "A" in the suit which Mr. Roosevelt is prosecuting for a third term.

Mr. Roosevelt's plan of killing the trusts with kindness is about as poor a campaign argument as it was an administrative policy.

Considering Mr. Roosevelt's very recent association with the bosses and Wall street it would be all right for him to turn state's evidence and tell on his former "pals," but isn't it a little soon for him to run for prosecuting attorney.

It is a compliment to the strength of the progressive sentiment that everybody now claims to be a progressive but care should be taken to see that the image of the donkey is plainly stamped on the candidate—the bull moose brand is a cheap imitation.

Very clearly Woodrow Wilson is not a genuine reformer. Here he is calmly discussing issues as he travels about the country, instead of swinging his hat in the air and shouting "liar," "ingrate," "bully," "slug 'em over the ropes," and other such expressions denoting the only true and genuine reformer.

Mr. Roosevelt says that the arguments against a third term do not weigh against non-consecutive terms. What about Grant's effort to secure a third term? His case was identical with Mr. Roosevelt's present effort, except that Mr. Roosevelt had to organize a third party in order to run for a third term.

GOVERNOR WILSON TO THE WEST AGAIN

Governor Wilson left New York for a western trip October 2. He will speak at Omaha on the afternoon of October 5 and at Lincoln, Neb., in the evening. He will spend Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. Bryan at Fairview. The Associated Press in describing his western trip said: Other cities where Governor Wilson will speak are Indianapolis, Topeka, Kansas City, Mo., Canton, O., and Cleveland. He will return to New York on October 12. The governor will first stop at Pittsburgh on October 3, where he will speak at night. On the morning of October 4 the nominee will leave Indianapolis on a special train, due to reach Chicago on the night of the 4th, leaving two hours later for Omaha. He plans to leave Omaha on October 5th for Lincoln. On Sunday night Governor Wilson is to leave Lincoln for Denver. After his speech there he will leave for Kansas City, making speeches on the way at Norton and Topeka on October 8. He will speak in Kansas City the night of the 8th and in Springfield, Mo., on the 9th.

Arrangements were made for a six hour stay at St. Louis on the afternoon and evening of October 9. The nominee is scheduled to reach St. Louis at 5:30 and leave at 11:45 for Chicago.

The Commoner.

Practical Tariff Talks

Several hundred thousand women in the equal suffrage states will have an opportunity at the November election to register their opinion upon the character of republican tariff-making under the Taft administration. The women of the land are vitally affected by the high tariffs which are the rule under republican dominance. Not only does every heavy burden upon household articles bear as heavily upon the women as upon the men, but they are picked out as especial victims for all that they wear. The silk dresses that are theirs are taxed at from 40 to 75 per cent of their value, the cheaper silks bearing the heavier duties. Their wool dress goods bear the extraordinary heavy tariff of 105 per cent, due to the fact that the wool trust wrote schedule K and went the limit.

When it comes to other articles of adornment they will find that they are compelled to pay heavy taxes. About the only exception is upon diamonds and pearls, which only a small percentage of them can afford to wear. On diamonds and pearls the tax is but 10 per cent of their value, but if they are artificial the tariff tax is double, or 20 per cent of their value. Fans carry a 50 per cent tariff; furs, 20 per cent; ostrich feathers, 50 per cent; parasols, 50 per cent; gloves from 40 to 60 per cent; jewelry, 60 per cent; trimmed hats, 50 per cent; hosiery, from 35 to 60 per cent.

The greater portion of the clothing worn by women comes under the heading of the cotton goods schedule. A brief history of this schedule, together with a few figures, will be interesting to those women who desire some accurate and interesting information upon a question of vital import to them. The cotton schedule under the Dingley law, which was in force from 1897 until it was superseded by the Payne-Aldrich law in 1909, carried an average duty of 47 per cent. This means that every article of cotton cloth and every piece of cotton yarn that came through the custom house had 47 per cent added to its foreign price. The fact that the importer must add this tariff duty to his price makes it possible for the home manufacturer to add approximately the same amount to what otherwise he could have secured, that being the intent of the tariff.

Some trouble developed over the administration of the schedule under the Dingley law, and court decisions were necessary to clear up certain sections and determine certain rates of duty. Using this fact as a pretext the senate finance committee, under the domination of Senator Aldrich, who came from a large cotton-manufacturing state and specially represented that interest in the senate, presented what he said was merely an equalizing schedule, but which did not materially change rates. Investigation developed that this was untrue, and that the cotton schedule in the Payne-Aldrich law contained a large number of raises. As a matter of fact the average rate is close to 53 per cent, or about 14 per cent of an increase. On many articles of wear the increase is as great as 70 per cent. The investigation disclosed also that the revised schedule was written by H. F. Lippitt, head of the cotton manufacturers' association. Mr. Lippitt, it may be said in passing, was later elected as senator from Rhode Island to succeed Mr. Aldrich.

A few extracts from the schedule as it now exists will show how the trickery was worked. On dotted swiss goods the Dingley law provided for a duty of 35 per cent. Under the manipulation as to its interpretation the actual duty collected was 47.31 per cent on the dotted swiss and 49.18 on the plain. The new duties, as now collected, are respectively, 61.54 and 51.42 per cent. On fancy white goods the duty was 35 per cent. The manipulated duty was 45.16 per cent, and the present duty is 55.89 per cent. On striped marquisettes the Dingley duty was 35 per cent, the manipulated duty 53.18 per cent and the present duty 60.94 per cent. On fancy wash fabrics the Dingley duty was 35 per cent, the manipulated duty 43.10 per cent, and the present duty 52.65 per cent. These fancy goods are made cheaper in America than in England, and are manufactured by only a few mills. An expert customs officer says that on this class of weaves the increase in duty was close to 65 per cent.

C. Q. D.

THE THREE TARIFF PLANKS

Commoner readers ought to familiarize themselves with the tariff planks in the three national platforms. The Commoner believes that the democratic plank commends itself without argument above the other two. Read each of these planks carefully.

Here is the republican tariff plank:

We affirm our belief in a protective tariff. The republican tariff policy has been of the greatest benefit to the country, developing our resources, diversifying our industries, and protecting our workmen against competition with cheaper labor abroad, thus establishing for our wage-earners the American standard of living. The protective tariff is so woven into the fabric of our industrial and agricultural life that to substitute for it a tariff for revenue only would destroy many industries and throw millions of our people out of employment. The products of the farm and mine should receive the same measure of protection as other products of American labor.

We hold that the import duties should be high enough to make sufficient revenue and protect adequately American industries and wages. Some of the existing import duties are too high and should be reduced. Readjustment should be made from time to time to conform to changed conditions and to reduce excessive rates, but without injury to any American industry. To accomplish this, correct information is indispensable. This information can best be obtained by an expert commission, as the large volume of useful facts contained in recent reports of the tariff board has demonstrated.

The pronounced feature of modern industrial life is its diversification. To apply tariff rates justly to these changing conditions requires closer study and more scientific methods than ever before. The republican party has shown by its creation of a tariff board its recognition of this situation and its determination to be equal to it. We condemn the democratic party for its failure either to provide funds for the continuance of this board or to make some other provision for securing the information requisite for intelligent tariff legislation. We protest against the democratic method of legislation on these vitally important subjects without careful investigation. We condemn the democratic tariff bills passed by the house of representatives of the Sixty-second congress as sectional, as injurious to the public credit, and as destructive of business enterprise.

Here is Mr. Roosevelt's party plank:

We believe in a protective tariff which shall equalize conditions of competition between the United States and foreign countries, both for the farmer and the manufacturer, and which shall maintain for labor an adequate standard of living. Primarily the benefit of any tariff should be disclosed in the pay envelope of the laborer. We declare that no industry deserves protection which is unfair to labor or which is operating in violation of federal law. We believe that the presumption is always in favor of the consuming public.

We demand tariff revision because the present tariff is unjust to the people of the United States. Fair dealing toward the people requires an immediate downward revision of those schedules wherein duties are shown to be unjust or excessive.

We pledge ourselves to the establishment of a non-partisan scientific tariff commission, reporting both to the president and to either branch of congress which shall report, first, as to the costs of production, efficiency of labor, capitalization, industrial organization and efficiency and the general competitive position in this country and abroad of industries seeking protection from congress;

Second, as to the revenue producing power of the tariff and its relation to the resources of government; and third, as to the effect of the tariff on prices, operations of middle men, and on the purchasing power of the consumer. We believe that this commission should have plenary power to elicit information and for this purpose to prescribe a uniform system of accounting for the great protected industries. The work of the commission should not prevent the immediate adoption of acts reducing those schedules generally recognized as excessive.

We condemn the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill as unjust to the people. The republican organization is in the hands of those who have broken and can not be again trusted to keep the promise of necessary downward revision. The democratic party is committed to the destruction of the protective system through a tariff for revenue only—a policy which would inevitably produce widespread industrial and commercial disaster. We demand the immediate repeal of the Canadian reciprocity act.

Here is the democratic plank:

We declare it to be a fundamental principle of the democratic party that the federal government under the constitution has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties, except for the purpose of revenue, and we demand that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of government honestly and economically administered.

The high republican tariff is the principal cause of the unequal distribution of wealth; it is a system of taxation which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer; under its operations the American farmer and laboring man are the chief sufferers; it raises the cost of the necessities of life to them but does not protect their product or wages. The farmer sells largely in free markets and buys almost entirely in the protected markets. In the most highly protected industries such as cotton and wool, steel and iron, the wages of the laborers are the lowest paid in any of our industries. We denounce the republican pretense on that subject and assert that American wages are established by competitive conditions and not by the tariff. We favor the immediate downward revision of the existing high and in many cases prohibitive tariff duties, insisting that material reductions be speedily made upon the necessities of life. Articles entering into competition with trust-controlled products and articles of American manufacture which are sold abroad more cheaply than at home, should be put upon the free list.

We recognize that our system of tariff taxation is intimately connected with the business of the