

# FROM THE COMMONER

MR. BRYAN'S PAPER

## THE FARMER'S INTEREST.

A Cadillac (Mich.) reader of The Commoner writes: "The farmers should be with us on the tariff and trust questions. Around here the farmers are getting 4½ cents a pound for hides, against 11 cents a year ago. Yet the price of leather is as high as it was last year, and no immediate promise of a reduction, and his shoes and harness are costing him fully as much as a year ago. This year our farmers received 15 cents for wool against a price of 24 a year ago, yet the American Woolen Company that controls about 70 per cent. of the leading woolen mills of the country is charging as much for woolen cloths as a year ago and the farmer must pay as much for his clothing as he did last year and he is lucky if he does not get more cotton in his clothes than he does wool. Let us direct our efforts to convince the farmers and laborers that their interests lie with us. Along that line lies the road to victory."

Yes, and the farmers should be with us on the question of an economical administration. They should be with us in the protest against the exercise of arbitrary power by the speaker, whereby the house of representatives has ceased to be a popular government.

They should be with us in the condemnation of the misuse of patronage; in the demand for railroad regulation that will regulate; in the advocacy of publicity for campaign contributions before election day.

They should be with us in the opposition to that centralization which would destroy our system of government and ultimately make it necessary for the farmer, as well as other citizens, to look to the national capital, rather than to the state capital and the county seat, when seeking relief from corporate abuses.

They should be with us for the popular election of senators; for the income tax; for the guarantee to the laboring men, as well as to all men, the right of trial by jury; for the farmer has a deep concern in the welfare of the laboring man who is the consumer of the farmer's products.

They should be with us on the guarantee of bank deposits; for what shall I profit a farmer if he obtain high prices for his product, and then have no place where he may, with absolute confidence, deposit his hard-earned money?

They should be with us upon the great question, "shall the people rule," for the farmer has a deep and abiding interest in popular government; and if he does not already know it, investigation will reveal to him the fact that in the language of the Democratic national platform, "shall the people rule," is the overshadowing issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion."

## TRIAL BY JURY, TOO!

Referring to the decision of the United States court of appeals in overruling Judge Landis' fine of the Standard Oil Company, the Chicago Record-Herald says:

"The members of the court scathingly arraigned Judge Landis, by inference, as denying the right of trial by jury to the defendant corporation, of attempting to visit punishment upon a corporation which had not even been indicted and of setting his personality and beliefs above the law."

Many Republican papers heartily approve the decision. Some of them are indignant that Judge Landis "by inference" denied to the Standard Oil Company "the right of trial by jury," but they condemn the efforts of Democrats who insist that the right of trial by jury be accorded to individuals in indirect contempt cases.

## UNFORTUNATE.

In the light of the bitter criticism visited upon Judge Landis by Judge Grosscup in releasing the Standard Oil Company from fine, it will not do, of course, to criticize the court, although we have eminent Republican authority for such a course, i. e., Theodore Roosevelt's criticism of Judge Humphrey's beef trust decision. We make bold to say, however, that the New York World puts it forcefully, although calmly, when it says "it is unfortunate this most harsh condemnation of a judge by his higher associates should have been for his attempt adequately to punish the Standard Oil Company."

## A SUGGESTION TO MR. SHERMAN.

Associated Press dispatches say that Representative James S. Sherman, the Republican nominee for vice-president, will make a tour of the west in behalf of the Republican ticket. We suggest that Mr. Sherman, who is Speaker Cannon's right hand man in the house, tell the people what he thinks of the Republican revolt against Cannonism.

By the time Mr. Sherman gets through explaining to Republicans the methods of the Cannon-Sherman oligarchy in the house, he may have some time to devote to his widely advertised "arraignment of Democrats."

## NOT AN INCH CONCEDED.

The New York Evening Post says that the Democrats "practically concede New York to the enemy." The Post is mistaken. New York is Democratic ground and every inch of it will be contested.

## "AFTER THE ELECTION."

A dispatch to the Chicago Tribune under date of New York, July 22, follows: "The report that the Standard Oil Company is about to announce an increase of \$500,000,000 in its capital stock was received with great interest in the financial district here to-day. Similar rumors have been circulated several times in the last few years, particularly in the west, but generally they have been met with denials by the Standard Oil interests. A prominent financier who has close relations with the Standard Oil Company said: 'I am sure that it is the same old story revived again and that there is nothing in it. Certainly this would be a most inopportune time to take any such action, with a presidential election only a few months ahead of us. I suppose it is possible that something of that kind may be done some time in the future, but not this year—not now.'"

This would be "a most inopportune time" to pump a half billion gallons of water into the Standard Oil stock. If anything like that is done it will be in accordance with other Republican plans "after election."

"After the election" the tariff will be revised—by a party that derives its campaign funds from the special beneficiaries of the tariff.

"After the election" the contributions to the campaign fund will be published—when it is too late for the people to learn that the trusts pay the bills for the Republican campaign.

"After the election" Standard Oil trust stock will be watered—if that course suits the purposes of the Rockefeller and the Rogers; and "after the election"—should the people reelect the special privileges party—they will pay dearly for their indifference to the solemn warning confronting them on every hand.

## BUT THEY FORGOT IT.

The New York Tribune says: "Mr. Bryan is not fortunate in his efforts to create political capital out of the reasonable popular desire for publicity in respect to campaign receipts and expenditures. A few weeks ago, while both the nominees were still in the position of candidates for the nomination, Mr. Bryan, in what he conceived to be a master stroke of adroitness, invited Mr. Taft to express an opinion as to the propriety of shedding full light on the funds employed in a contest for the presidency, their sources, amounts and distribution. Thereupon Mr. Taft, who had hesitated to assume an authority not yet bestowed upon him, caused the fact to be made known that he had already declared in writing for complete publicity, which left Mr. Bryan in a somewhat less comfortable position than he had supposed himself to be assured of when he addressed his complacent suggestion to the prospective Republican candidate."

But several important facts are to be remembered in this connection. Chairman Burrows forgot to tell the convention about the "publicity letter" he received from Mr. Taft.

The Republican congress forgot to pass a law providing for publicity.

The Republican national convention, which nominated Mr. Taft, defeated, by a vote of 880 nays to 94 yeas, the LaFollette plank providing for publicity.

And the best the Republican party is willing to do on this line is the promise that "after the election" Republican managers will take the people into their confidence.

## NOT ISSUES!

Attorney General Wade H. Ellis of Ohio, who was a member of the committee on resolutions in the Republican national convention, issued a statement in which, referring to the propositions voted down in the Republican convention, he says: "Of the seven omissions he (Mr. Bryan) refers to, six are in no sense issues before the people at this time, nor has there been any attempt to make them such by the administration, nor by any other influential element in the party. The seventh concerns injunctions."

Many Republican papers suppressed this portion of Mr. Ellis' statement. The reason for the suppression will be readily understood when it is remembered that among the propositions which Mr. Ellis says are "in no sense issues before the people" are the following:

Publicity of campaign contributions. Ascertainment of the value of railroads. The national income tax.

The encroachment of predatory wealth.

Popular election of United States senators.

Mr. Ellis has, perhaps, noticed that since the publication of his statement the Republican candidate for president has given proof that he has discovered that the people have some concern in the publicity-of-campaign-contributions' proposition.

## TREASON!

We would not for the world engage in criticism of the court. But surely there can be no harm in reproducing a Republican editorial (for whoever knew a Republican editorial to be out of accord with the accepted rules of polite society?). The New York Press, a Republican paper, referring to the Grosscup decision, says:

"The judgment of the court of appeals, which calls for careful scrutiny and cool reading, can not alter the public conviction that the offenders behind the Standard Oil corporation in its rebate crimes deserve to be in the penitentiary and will be sent there when the law is enforced by those who take oaths to administer it."

## TYPICAL LUMBER JACKS



A Scene in the Northern Timber Country.

# FOUGHT TO A FINISH.

## ALLIGATORS IN A DUEL TO THE DEATH.

Saurians in New York Zoo Settle Question of Supremacy While Spectators Look On Unable to Interfere.

New York.—A fight to the death between two alligators furnished several hundred visitors to the Bronx zoological gardens with a spectacle rarely seen north of Mason and Dixon's line. The conflict was waged in the 40-foot pool outside the reptile cage.

One of the alligators was "Captain," so named because he has always been master of the aquarium tank. When he slid out of the crate Captain scuttled triumphantly over to the larger pool and swam around it several times.

Finally his malicious little eyes lighted on a staid-looking 'gator called Whitey, who has been in the habit of lording it over the Bronx park alligators.

The two boss 'gators looked at each other for a minute or two. Finally, finding that it was impossible to catch each other napping, the two great reptiles closed with a rush.

By the time the keepers entered the enclosure every other 'gator had left the pool. The men beat the forms of the two fighters with their poles, but they could not see where they were hitting because of the spray and the different positions which the writhing forms took every instant. Once the spray subsided a little and they saw that Whitey had bitten Captain's front leg entirely off. The two 'gators drew off for a minute.

Whitey, moving more quickly than Captain, with his three legs, could turn, saw a chance to get a death grip at the side of his head and rushed in again. There was a tremendous churning up of the water for a minute or two.

Whitey was swimming around and around the pool, with the dead body of Captain in his jaws. He was cut and bleeding in a dozen parts of his scaly body, and one of his eyes was torn and full of blood. He had torn two of the legs off Captain's body.

The only way that the keepers were able to get the body from him was to lasso his head and legs, draw him to the side of the pond, and pry his jaws open with their poles. Even then

they had to let all the water out of the tank to stop his struggling.

## KNOW VALUE OF TIME.

Baltimore Couple Set Record for Hasty Marriages.

Philadelphia.—Meeting for the first time at four o'clock and being married at 5:35 is the record for rapid fire matchmaking set by Charles MacGregor and Estelle Myers Snack, both of Baltimore, Md., in Philadelphia recently.

MacGregor is a wealthy real estate dealer. He is 30 and the bride 22. Miss Snack had been spending her vacation at Atlantic City. She was returning home via Philadelphia. As she stood in the waiting room of the Broad street station she dropped her purse. MacGregor noticed the fallen purse and picked it up.

When they discovered their homes were in the same city the way was easy. At 4:10 the conversation turned to the discussion of marriage. At 4:14 MacGregor was able to propose without changing the subject, and one minute later he had been accepted.

The difficulty then was to arrange the marriage. As MacGregor pondered upon the difficulty he was aroused by a heavy slap on the back. Behind him was Rev. David T. Neely, pastor of the Aquith Street Presbyterian church in Baltimore, his own church. The minister agreed to perform the ceremony and the party went to the home of John J. Robinson, an intimate friend of the groom, where the ceremony was performed at 5:35 o'clock.

## Will Soon Have Vast Estate.

Greenwich, Conn.—William G. Rockefeller has recently made two purchases of land adjoining his 400-acre Greenwich estate. The first purchase was a part of the Mills Husted estate, including Woodland, a beautiful stream and a stretch of pretty open country. The second was from Oliver D. Mead, president of the Greenwich National bank, and consists of 42 acres east of an old road usually called Zachaeus Mead's lane. This property also adjoins land of George Lauder, Jr., nephew of Andrew Carnegie.

Mr. Rockefeller is now one of the largest landholders in the town. His property is situated on high ground north of the village, where there is a beautiful view of Long Island Sound.

# FAT PEOPLE IN PROTEST

Gov. Hughes of New York Heeds Their Complaints.

New York.—Nobody loves a fat man? Not so. Gov. Hughes loves the fat man—and woman. Also the public service commission of New York has indicated that its affection and attention may rest permanently upon those who are blessed with excessive avoirdupois.

The public service commission since its formation has been busy correcting the evils of New York, but until to-day it did not find itself confronted by any question as intricate and as far reaching as that presented by the Fat People's association.

The complaint was in the form of a protest—a chortle and a roar from several and sundry persons, male and female, whose presence on the weighing scale makes the indicator work overtime and whose figures cannot be called svelte by any stretch of the English language or imagination.

"The elevated roads' stairways are too small."

This was the complaint. And being a wise man as well as a candidate for renomination, Gov. Hughes hearkened to the protest.

Commissioner Eustis ordered an investigation and Transit Inspector Frank Bennett was called.

"The stairways are a little narrow," said Mr. Bennett; "that is, when two persons of the size of Mr. Taft attempt to pass each other."

"Well, if Mr. Taft, going up stairs, should meet himself coming down," said Mr. Eustis, "what would happen?"

"If an irresistible force meets an immovable body—" began Mr. Bennett.

"Enough," said the commissioner. "We will investigate further and if

necessary the stairways will be widened."

## Born Assailant of Girl.

Greenville, Tex.—Miss Viola Delaney, 16 years of age, living three miles west of here, left her home to get mail from the box, about 300 yards away. On her return an armed negro, 19 years old, attacked her. She dragged herself home and was found by her mother. Marshal Norman captured the negro in the back yard of a farmhouse. The marshal eluded a mob and placed the negro in the county jail. At eight o'clock the next morning Sheriff Hensell took the negro, Ted Smith, to the home of his victim, who at once identified him. One hundred men met Sheriff Hensell at the jail, dragged the negro to the adjacent square, piled wood around him, saturated it with kerosene and set it on fire. Hundreds of men, women and children watched the negro burn. A second load of wood was placed on the fire and the boy was burned two hours longer. A negro who denounced the action was horsewhipped.

## Baby Drowns in Soapbuds.

St. Louis.—Joseph Volaski, the 13-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Volaski, who was found with his head submerged in soapbuds in a wash tub in the yard of his home, No. 219 East Primus street, was the second child in three days to drown in a few inches of water.

Toney Volaski, six years old, screamed when he found his brother in the tub. Mrs. Volaski ran into the yard and pulled the baby from the water. Life was extinct. It is believed the child was playing around the tub when it fell in.

# CHANGES IN COLOR

INDIANAPOLIS WOMAN HAS MANY TRANSFORMATIONS.

For the Third Time Remarkable Variation in Tint of Skin Is Seen in Woman a Former Slave.

Indianapolis, Ind.—For the third time in her life of 59 years, the wife of America Massey, a former slave who lives with George Laswell at Minnesota street and Churchman avenue, has turned from black to white.

The first 16 years of her life were spent in slavery as a housemaid and as she can remember nothing about her parents she does not attempt to explain the mystery which has baffled everyone who has seen her, as well as numerous physicians who have examined her.

Having completed the third transformation Mrs. Massey is now of a fair complexion. Her skin is not light in patches, but is completely white with the exception of three small brown spots on the right side of her face and one on the left. A tint of pink on each cheek adds a bit of color to her appearance and the curly hair, which is gray only in patches, brings additional contrast. When working about the house she rolls her sleeves, showing arms whiter than would be expected on a woman with a fair skin.

In making the first complete change from black to white and then from white to black, as well as in the second complete change, Mrs. Massey says she noticed an itching sensation of the skin before the appearance of the spots dark or light, as the case might be.

Although she has not as yet noticed the accompanying itching sensation, the appearance of the little spots on the face has given her ground for fear that the reverse process in the third transformation may not be far off.

Mr. and Mrs. Massey have a daughter, Mrs. Jeremiah Redman, 112 Nelson street, where they spend much of their time.

## ART TREASURES DISAPPEAR.

Rome Gossip at Once Connects Morgan's Name with Their Purchase.

Rome.—A story has been going the rounds in which the name of J. Pierpont Morgan is mixed, as is usual when there is any disappearance of art treasures.

This latest disappearance is that of some precious manuscripts of Palestrina, the composer of church music. They were in the custody of the Basilica of St. John Lateran. That is in the direct care of Cardinal Satolli.

The story is that an American millionaire, known for his liberality and his love for collecting the rare and the beautiful—in other words, Mr. Morgan—heard of the MSS., saw them, and made an offer to buy them at once. The offer was not accepted immediately—much being made of the difficulty of the sale because of government interference, of breaking the law, etc. But when the amount of the offer was doubled the difficulties disappeared and both sides were happy.

The report goes on to say that the large sum thus gained will be used on the Basilica of St. John Lateran. It is difficult to get at the truth of such a story, but I am assured that the MSS. have really disappeared.

## SEES HIS IMAGE IN THE SKY.

Nevada Man Tells of an Atmospheric Freak on Mount Davis.

Remo, Nev.—The specter of Brockton, heretofore believed to be a superstition relating to Mount Jeff Davis, in White Pine county, has been verified by State Engineer Nicholas, who has just returned from an official trip to the mountains, and now reports its height as 14,706 feet, which is 200 feet higher than any other mountain in the United States.

Years ago a band of Indians fled from the mountains because of an image of themselves which appeared above the mountain in the clouds, reflected many times their original size. Believing it was the spirits coming to destroy them, they fled, and since then none has dared return to the mountain.

Nicholas witnessed the strange freak. While standing on the apex of the mountain his image appeared on the white clouds to the east. It was many times his size. This condition is not unknown to the government, as there is a record of a mountain in Germany where similar phenomena occur. Nicholas will take the matter up with the view of determining the cause.

## WHALE MADE A BONFIRE.

Stranded Monster, Blown Up, Burst Into Flame.

York Beach, Me.—The 75-foot whale which came ashore a short time ago at Phillips Cove at the cliff and was subsequently anchored off the Nubble light while the promoters made a good business taking people out in their motor boats was towed out to sea and dynamited.

Then came a surprise for the dynamiters. The explosives went off all right, but another effect than what was expected followed, for the big whale burst into sheets of flame. The oil-soaked body burned fiercely all night long, giving a remarkable effect from shore, which was lined with spectators. The fire spent itself at a late hour in the morning.

# THE COME AND SEE SIGN



This sign is permanently attached to the front of the main building of the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Company, Lynn, Mass.

What Does This Sign Mean? It means that public inspection of the Laboratory and methods of doing business is honestly desired. It means that there is nothing about the business which is not "open and above-board."

It means that a permanent invitation is extended to anyone to come and verify any and all statements made in the advertisements of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Is it a purely vegetable compound made from roots and herbs—without drugs?

Come and See. Do the women of America continually use as much of it as we are told? Come and See.

Was there ever such a person as Lydia E. Pinkham, and is there any Mrs. Pinkham now to whom sick women are asked to write? Come and See.

Is the vast private correspondence with sick women conducted by women only, and are the letters kept strictly confidential? Come and See.

Have they really got letters from over one million, one thousand thousand women correspondents? Come and See.

Have they proof that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has cured thousands of these women? Come and See.

This advertisement is only for doubters. The great army of women who know from their own personal experience that no medicine in the world equals Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for female ills will still go on using and being benefited by it; but the poor doubting, suffering woman must, for her own sake, be taught confidence, for she also might just as well regain her health.

## Astonished Great Pianist.

A collection of anecdotes of musical celebrities just published at Leipzig contains this one under the head of Anton Rubinstein. When the great pianist was making his tour of the United States he sat one day in a railroad train looking out upon the scenery. Suddenly a man sitting across the aisle spat over Rubinstein's head out of the open window. The master drew back and gazed in astonishment and anger at the vulgar American, who smiled and said, soothingly: "Don't worry; I know my distance."

The extraordinary popularity of fine white goods this summer makes the choice of Starch a matter of great importance. Defiance Starch, being free from all injurious chemicals, is the only one which is safe to use on fine fabrics. Its great strength as a stiffener makes half the usual quantity of Starch necessary, with the result of perfect finish, equal to that when the goods were new.

## An Eye on the Future.

Tommy's maiden aunt had called attention to some of that young man's misdemeanors, thereby causing him to be punished. Tommy pondered a while, then asked, "Papa, will little Sister Gladys be an aunt to my children when I am a man?"

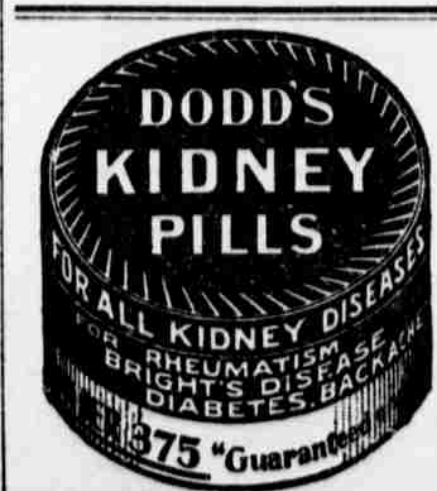
"Yes, Tommy," answered his father, much interested. "Why do you ask?" "Cause she might as well get married and have a home of her own, for I don't intend to 'low any aunts to stay around my house, making trouble for my children."—Woman's Home Companion.

That an article may be good as well as cheap, and give entire satisfaction, is proven by the extraordinary sale of Defiance Starch, each package containing one-third more Starch than can be had of any other brand for the same money.

## High Art in Billville.

"An' you say it took that artist two months to paint this little picture?"

"Shore did!" "Well, all I've got to say is, he's too slow for this settlement. I could 'a' painted two houses an' four barns in that time, an' not half tried."—Atlanta Constitution.



WIDOWS' under NEW LAW obtained by JOHN W. MORRIS, Washington, D. C. PENSIONS