

all remember how the president pointed out the "plain duty" of free trade with our outlying provinces. But the tobacco trust raised the alarm of the utter ruin to our tobacco planters that such a policy would induce. Congress "protected" our infant tobacco interests against the Porto Rican octopus until the people had parted with their crop to American speculators, and now the fine "Italian hand" is shown by admission of this entire crop, practically free. The American infants are growing fat under the constant use of tariff pabulum. We shall soon expect to see pictures of the tobacco and sugar twins, labeled "Tariff Food Babies."

The Commoner, with every succeeding issue, emphasizes its determination to live up to its name. T. M. S.

VALUABLE STATISTICS.

"The seventh biennial report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics of Nebraska, for the years 1899 and 1900, in their report of manufactures, for the years 1898 and 1899, on page 241, table 13, do not include, in the list of industries for the year 1898, cereal mills or starch factories. On page 242, they state that they have received reports from five packing house companies. On pages 280 and 281 they give statistics for three canning companies, one not incorporated, and two incorporated. The reports for packing house products will be found on pages 284 and 285.

On page 323, it is stated that six packing houses report, only three of which give amount of capital invested. Packing house products are reported on pages 346 and 347. In the list of manufacturers in the state of Nebraska, obtained from postmasters and manufacturers' reports, four canning factories are mentioned, one each in Beatrice, Blair, Edgar and Grand Island; no Nebraska City canning factory is included. On page 397, the Chicago Packing and Provision Co. is mentioned; also one at Lincoln and several at South Omaha. No cereal mills or starch factories are mentioned among the list of manufactures. On page 400, under the list, headed "Miscellaneous," the Nebraska City canning factory is mentioned. This is a complete statement of everything, which appears in the report, of interest to Nebraska City industries."

The above, from a careful man, indicates the value of labor statistics under populistic manipulation. In Nebraska City, where the National Starch Company is employing two hundred persons, the Cereal Mills more than one hundred, and the Morton-Gregson Packing House another hundred and more, the labor bureau found no industrial plants outside of the cannery which is incidentally mentioned. But the populist candidate for the presidency and all his staff orators knew of the industries at Nebraska City and campaigned in favor of shutting them up. Every intelligent citizen of Nebraska knows that in Nebraska City there are more dinner pails going and coming, each day, from suc-

cessful manufactories, of one kind or another, than in any similar town in the commonwealth.

This last day of April, 1901, there are more than four hundred and seventy-five (475) persons

Four Hundred and Seventy-five.

on the pay-rolls of three corporations in Nebraska City. They did not shut up. They did not shut down. Is this the reason populistic compilers of labor statistics omit them from their publications?

The idea of combination seems to have gained a momentum, which has carried it beyond an application to the industrial world. Witness the recent nomination of Bryan by the conglomerate parties of all color, shades and beliefs last summer.

The recent election of Tom L. Johnson to the mayoralty in Cleveland, Ohio, has set the "president makers" to figuring. Much discussion has been occasioned by this event, as to whether Johnson will not be the "logical" candidate before the next agglomerated assemblage of distinguished and "representative" thinkers and platform builders.

Mr. Johnson, himself, maintains a sphinx-like silence, upon this subject of presidential possibilities, but his friends are loudly declaiming in his behalf. The great "Single Taxer's" silence might be construed as a virtual consent, had his late career, as a politician, not been built largely upon his "minding his own business" and "keeping counsel with himself."

Mr. W. F. Cooling, a prominent "Single Taxer," in an address before the Chicago Single Tax Club, commented upon Mr. Johnson's silent attitude. He argued that Johnson was not a democrat, and that, although the adherents to a belief in Single Tax had always worked within the democratic party, they were "not of it."

Upon this basis, he disposed of Johnson as a presidential democratic possibility, a republican nomination being out of reason.

Using Mr. Cooling's argument, one would be induced to believe that the ultimate success of Least Resistance, a Single Tax, would be along, and within the party line which afforded the least resistance.

The present, and recent history of fusionism would, it appears, invite such a political scheme. There seems to exist a disposition on the part of those who have usurped the prerogatives of the untarnished democracy, to offer the

minimum of resistance to anything which savors of attractiveness, sense or nonsense, wisdom or foolishness. Single tax will, undoubtedly be launched, if launched at all, in the rank and file of the great politicocratic combination of Bryan, Altgeld & Co.

Woe be unto Johnson, if he consents to become a silent partner in this *Trust!*

The packing houses, cold storage plant, cereal mills, National Starch Company, Nebraska City canning factory, King Drill works, Wale & Eccleston's foundry, Kees trunk factory, and Schminke's big flouring mills at Nebraska City are running full head and with expansion in view, Bryan, Smythe, Oldham & Co. to the prophetic contrary notwithstanding.

THE CONSERVATIVE CHARACTER OF ADVERTISERS.

THE CONSERVATIVE again calls attention to the character of the banking institutions, manufacturing concerns and, also, to the individuals who advertise from week to week in its columns. There is no weekly journal in the Northwest which can show a more decent and purer lot of business advertisements. Not one of them is among the commoner class, such as: "If you want to make \$75 a month and expenses, without any experience, address So-and-so, Cincinnati, Ohio," nor are there any bankers, either in Williamsport or Philadelphia, Pa., advertised within these columns who are not "rated" or "quoted" by either Dun or Bradstreet as being worthy of public confidence. For the character of every advertiser in THE CONSERVATIVE, its patrons are referred to the commercial reports of Dun, Bradstreet, or any other "commercial rating company" in the United States. We challenge all weekly periodicals to find a single concern advertised by THE CONSERVATIVE which, under the most thorough investigation, cannot prove itself to be reputable, solid, solvent and honest. Is there any list of advertisers in any other weekly which contains the names of firms not quoted, not reputable? This question can be solved through customers of Dun or Bradstreet.

BRYAN AN EEL.

Mr. William J. Bryan excites a hope when he begins an answer to a question regarding his intentions by saying, "I am not planning for another presidential nomination," but he dashes it immediately when he follows this with the sentence: "If I ever become a candidate again it will be because it seems necessary," etc. This is always the way with Bryan's apparent withdrawals; no eel can double half a dozen times in his own length more nimbly than can W. J. B.—Oakland Enquirer, April 26, 1901.