

**Two Good Papers.**

Hon. Urey Woodson, Kentucky's member of the democratic national committee and for many years editor and proprietor of the Owensboro Messenger, has purchased the Daily Democrat of Paducah, Kentucky, and will edit it in connection with the Messenger. The blue grass state is fortunate in having so able a man and so loyal a demorcat in control of the policy of two papers of such influence. They furnish an antidote near a hand for the political poison which is being injected into the party by the Courier-Journal.

**Good Work in California.**

The Iroquois League of California met at Benicia the other day and adopted resolutions, the first of which reads:

"Resolved, That the Iroquois League of California, at its thirteenth annual convention at Benicia, May 20, 1901, again reaffirm its allegiance to the principles of true democracy, as expressed in the platform adopted at Kansas City, July 4, 1900."

Speeches were made by a number of delegates and great enthusiasm prevailed. THE COMMONER extends greetings to the members of the Iroquois League and urges its readers to give all possible encouragement to the organization. The democratic clubs which are being organized all over the country will be of great service to the party in resisting the efforts of the reorganizers to lead the party over to the principles advocated by the enemy.

**All Labor Honorable.**

W. H. Councill, President of the Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes at Normal, Alabama, recently delivered an address in which he said:

"I came through the Richmond slave pen to this platform upon which I stand today. I do not regret the hard struggles of my life and the bitter experiences necessary to my growth, for, after all, adversity tests and develops man. \* \* \*

"Whip idlers from among us, as the bee stings out the drone. Idlers produce crime and criminals. We must ask nothing but a chance to work and to be paid for our work. Envy no man. Take nothing from any man. Every honest negro drayman, servant girl, washerwoman, mechanic, hotel boy, barber, who does his duty in an intelligent, competent, trus worthy manner, is a queen or prince among them.

"No honest labor is dishonorable. It is more blessed to serve than to be served in any walk of life. The servant girl's hood and apron above an honest heart and educated brain are as honorable as the college cap and gown."

This is good advice and a worthy sentiment. The white man as well as the black man might profit by Mr. Councill's suggestion. The apron of the laborer is, indeed, a badge of honor; and it would be well if every parent sought to impress upon the child that nothing is more honorable than honest toil.

**Grotesquely Inconsistent.**

Much ado has been made by the representatives of the War Department concerning the recent escapade of cadets at West Point, and a number of cadets were expelled from the mili-

tary academy for "the good of the service and the honor of the military profession." The New York Evening Post charges Adjutant General Corbin with false statements concerning the trial of Captain Reed for commissary frauds. The Washington correspondent of the Post says that General Corbin has admitted the falsehood and excuses it on the plea that he was solicitous for the feelings of Captain Reed's relatives.

Commenting upon these incidents, the Philadelphia North American says:

"If it is not incumbent upon an 'officer and gentleman' to tell the truth, if men who wear the stars are not to be held accountable for the honor of the army, but may utter falsehoods and deny facts with impunity, it is grotesquely inconsistent to put disgrace upon boys who tell fibs to get a holiday."

**What is Fair?**

A distinguished New Yorker in an interview recently said that "labor is entitled to a fair wage but is not entitled to any more." A correspondent of the New York Journal asks that paper if it could give an idea of what a fair wage is. "Is it 20 per cent or 40 per cent or 60 per cent or 80 per cent or 100 per cent of labor's production? Who is to be the judge of this matter? If less than 100 per cent of labor's production belongs to labor, to whom does the rest belong and by what right?"

The Journal replies that "if we define 'labor' as all the effort both of hand and of brain required to produce a given result, then labor under the existing social system is undoubtedly entitled to the bulk of the profit. It is not entitled to quite all the profit, for the person who furnishes the capital which is indispensable for important production has a right to a reasonable rate of interest and to compensation for any risk there may be in the enterprise."

This is a very interesting question and a very interesting answer. But it is true that labor as defined by the Journal does not receive a fair proportion of its share of the profit. It cannot be denied that "labor is entitled to a fair wage and is not entitled to any more." But who has ever demanded more than a "fair wage" in behalf of labor? Is it not also true that capital is entitled to a fair return and to nothing more? And yet the man who insists that labor be given its fair proportion, and who protests against capital taking an unfair proportion, is immediately branded as a disturber of social order and an enemy of the public good.

**In Spite of Mr. Conger's Endorsement.**

At a dinner recently given in the City of New York, Mr. Conger, our Chinese Minister, delivered a speech in which he pleaded for a ship subsidy.

"It is to be regretted," said Minister Conger, "that some sort of a measure in aid of American shipping did not pass during the last congress. In my judgment this is not a political, but a patriotic measure and is de-

manded in order to meet the competition of shipping subsidized by other governments."

Mr. Conger should avoid the bad example set by some of our representatives abroad, who, on returning home, have undertaken to pose as experts in informing the American people as to their duty on public questions. Mr. Conger is in no better position than any other intelligent American to speak as to the propriety of a shipping subsidy. The men behind the iniquitous schemes which seek and usually find favor with this administration invariably attempt to brand the word "patriotic" on every one of their schemes. But the American people cannot be deceived by the claim that a proposition involving the taking of millions of dollars from the pockets of the people and transferring them to the pockets of a few rich ship owners is a "patriotic" proposition.

The proposition is not a patriotic one because it involves a gross injustice to the public, and an unfair advantage to the would be beneficiaries. The question is a "political" one because the republican party accepted responsibility for this proposition and its representative men are exerting every effort to push the scheme to a successful conclusion.

**London's Level Headed Phrenologist.**

A London phrenologist recently examined J. Pierpont Morgan, the great trust organizer, and among other things the phrenologist said of him:—"Strip him of the glamour of successful money getting and there is no sort of character about him for contemplation which would make any man feel better."

This is not necessarily a correct estimate of the great money magnate, although the reputation of this particular phrenologist, added to the fact that his description is somewhat in keeping with the estimate made by those who have had the opportunity to know Mr. Morgan well, gives character to the description. It is natural, too, that a man whose whole life has been devoted to the getting of money should have neglected the cultivation of other traits which contribute to character building in a man.

What an estimate this is to be placed upon one who would not like to have it thought that his life is a failure! And yet who can say that the man, who, apart from his powers of money getting possesses no sort of character that would command the admiration of men, can indeed write success on the final page of his life?

The record of J. Pierpont Morgan in the manipulation of stocks, in the organization of powerful business concerns, in the getting of money for himself and his associates, is almost unparalleled in the history of men; and yet we do not recall any instance where this man has contributed to the sum of human happiness in this world. The "glamor of successful money getting" has been his. In that glamour he has lived and in that glamour he will die. But unless he does something more than the mere accumulation of gold his life will not have avoided failure.