

interesting to watch a man grow and, particularly in the last year or two, Mr. Bailey has been developing with remarkable rapidity. Even his enemies can no longer charge him with being hot headed and inclined to follow his impulses rather than his mature judgment. While Senator Gorman is the nominal leader of the senate minority by reason of his position as chairman of the democratic caucus, it is Mr. Bailey who has led the democratic forces throughout the whole course of the stubborn fight over the rate bill. True, Mr. Gorman has been ill and was in the senate only a few weeks in the early part of the session; but even when he was present it was Senator Bailey who was generally recognized, by the minority, by the majority, by the press of the country, and by the people as a whole, as the real leader. He it was who had more than any other one man to do with bringing the rate bill out of the committee on interstate commerce, and the placing of it in the hands of a minority senator, Mr. Tillman of South Carolina. He it is to whom a majority of the democrats now look for leadership. It is his nonsuspension and court review amendments which have attracted attention throughout the nation to the practical exclusion of all other features of the contest during the last few weeks. His memorable speech on the rate bill, in which he is admitted to have demolished the arguments of Senators Spooner and Knox, theretofore regarded as the best lawyers on either side in the senate, is universally conceded to have been the ablest delivered in the senate in recent years."

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS has written for the Century Magazine an interesting article entitled "Reflex Light From Africa." Mr. Adams recently visited Africa and he says that as a result "the scales fell from my (his) eyes." He adds: "I found myself most impressed by a realizing sense of the appalling amount of error and

cant in which we of the United States have indulged on this topic, (the African in America). We have actually wallowed in a bog of self-sufficient ignorance—especially we philanthropists and theorists of New England. We do so still. Having eyes we do not see. Even now we not infrequently hear the successor to the abolitionist and humanitarian of the ante-civil-war period—the 'Uncle Tom' period—announce that the difference between the white man and the black man is much less considerable than is ordinarily supposed, and that the only real obstacle in the negro's way is that 'he has never been given a chance.' For myself, after visiting the black man in his own house, I come back with a decided impression that this is the sheerest of delusions, due to pure ignorance of rudimentary facts; yet we built upon it in reconstruction days as upon a foundation stone—a self-evident truth!"

THE WORK DONE by those who were in political control at the close of the civil war was, in the opinion of Mr. Adams, "work done in utter ignorance of ethnological law and total disregard of unalterable fact." Mr. Adams adds: "The negro after emancipation should have been dealt with not as a political equal, much less forced into a position of superiority; he should have been treated as a ward and dependent—firmly, but in a spirit of kindness and absolute justice. Practically impossible as a policy then, this is much less so now. At best it is something which can only be slowly and tentatively approximated. Nevertheless it is not easy for one at all observant to come back from Egypt and the Soudan without a strong suspicion that we will in America make small progress toward a solution of our race problem unless we approach it in less of a theoretic and humanitarian and more of a scientific spirit. Equality results not from law, but exists because things are in essentials

alike, and a political system which works admirably when applied to homogeneous equals results only in chaos when generalized into a nostrum to be administered universally. It has been markedly so of late with us."

A LONDON PICTURE dealer recently brought suit against Charles M. Schwab of the steel trust for breach of contract. It developed that this picture dealer had offered to sell Schwab a certain picture for \$25,000. Schwab finally offered \$15,000 for the picture, which offer was accepted. In the meantime another picture agent who learned of these negotiations, saw the owner of this particular picture and offered to sell the same to Schwab for \$10,000. Schwab refused to conclude his deal with the first agent, hence the suit for breach of contract. It developed during the testimony that any ordinary person could have bought this picture for \$4,250. These American millionaires have made their money so easily through the special favors generously given to them by the American people that they are easy plucking for the "art" agents in the old world.

THE AMERICAN Society of Equity, organized three years ago at Indianapolis, is showing considerable activity in Nebraska. J. A. Everitt of Indianapolis is president, and H. B. Sherman of Greensburg, Ind., is national organizer. O. B. Shafer is the Nebraska president; J. S. Canady of Minden, vice president; C. C. Williams of Hastings, secretary, and A. J. Bloomfield, treasurer. Though the movement in Nebraska began in March, 1906, eleven counties have been organized. W. O. Dungan of Minden is actively at work organizing Phelps, Kearney and Buffalo counties and he predicts that the American Society of Equity, whose purpose it is to organize the farmers so that they will hold their products until they receive their own price for the same, will prove eminently successful.

HAVE YOU ENLISTED FOR THE PRIMARY PLEDGE CAMPAIGN?

The primary pledge is designed to awaken the interest of the rank and file of voters in the primaries of their party. As a result of the campaign waged on these lines thousands of democrats have signed a pledge promising to lose no opportunity to participate in the primaries of their party, and to see to it that the party makes a clear, honest and straightforward declaration on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Victor S. Firger, Saugerties, N. Y.—I enclose primary pledge. I want to be a member of this band of men who are working for equal rights to all. Three cheers for The Commoner.

Ike Smith, Jennings, Mont.—Enclosed find my signature to the primary pledge. I am a democrat, and am proud of it, although I did not vote for Parker. I will do all I can in support of the primary pledge plan.

G. M. Shearer, Walker, Mo.—You will find enclosed primary pledge signed by 39 men. I am 64 years old and never voted any other way than the straight democratic ticket, and am willing to do all in my power to carry out such principles. I hope we democrats may have an honest man to vote for in 1908. Your paper is doing good work all over the United States.

U. S. McClain, St. Marys, Kan.—Please send me primary pledge blank. I want to see how the democrats stand in St. Marys. Our ranks were somewhat broken in the last local election, but we hope to rally again, for democrats certainly have the best side of the question on all issues. We all have to acknowledge The Commoner to be the "star banner" in the ranks.

Samuel N. Riekel, Claypool, Ind.—Please find enclosed the names and addresses of 16 Jeffersonian democrats from a rock ribbed republican county, also one from Fulton county, Ind., whom I believe will carry out the pledge. Now I believe that if every hustling democrat over the United States would aid The Commoner in getting the names of persons who would be interested in carry pledge blanks in their pockets and presenting them to the people, the primary pledges would pour into The Commoner office by the thousands.

Wm. M. Swayne, Fort Wayne, Ind.—I herein send you names of some democrats of Allen county that ought to receive some sample copies of The Commoner. The primary system of nominating candidates has been adopted by the dem-

ocratic county committee. The names given are of country people. I think it is of great importance to get as large attendance of the country people as possible to the primaries. Samples of The Commoner will help to do this as well as to help increase the circulation of The Commoner.

H. E. King, Dadeville, Mo.—Enclosed you will find 11 names to your primary pledge. Would like to send more, but I have had sickness in my family and my work has been pressing me and I have not had time to get out and work. I have sent C. D. King's name and myself heretofore. I hope I will live to see the people wake up to their interests and rights on the principles that Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan have taught. I live in a very strong republican township, but I am willing to do all I can for true democracy.

Norris E. Hoover, Houstontown, Pa.—The following list of names represent the fruits of five minutes work. You may look for a longer list in the near future. Keep the ball moving. I always have been a great admirer of W. J. Bryan and The Commoner. Fulton county is one of the very few counties in Pennsylvania that is always found in the democratic column.

The g. o. p. was given a bad scare last fall in Pennsylvania, and unless all signs fall will be given a worse one this fall. I am only 26 years of age, but have always taken an active part in politics. At present am one of the township committeemen.

W. H. Tisch, Grass Lake, Mich.—I enclose a list of six primary pledge signers. I have enlisted in the thirty days' skirmish and will do all that is in my power to get our army together. I have sent in a very large list of primary signers since the plan was first put before the people. If every one would do and think as I do, the republican party would soon be a thing of the past, which I think it soon will be anyhow. Mr. Bryan's letters of his travels in distant lands are certainly wonderful and interesting. I have read a great deal of history, but I have read none so interesting, so instructive and bright as are Mr. Bryan's letters. They are not only read by democrats, but by republicans and with as much interest. I have heard republicans highly commend Mr. Bryan's letters. I will send more signers soon. Wishing The Commoner, its editor and publisher a long, happy, and successful life, will remain as always.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next Democratic National Convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed _____

Street _____ Postoffice _____ State _____

County _____ Voting precinct or ward _____

Fill out Blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Nebraska.