

## Circulating The Commoner

The action of some democratic senators and congressmen in voting with the republicans to place a tariff duty on some of the necessities of life in violation of the democratic national platform pledge has raised a discussion that will enable the public to better understand the issues involved. Mr. Bryan's speech at Dallas clearly defines the position of an overwhelming majority of the democrats throughout the country and is a call to arms of those who believe that a platform is binding, and that democracy means "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

If one section of the country desires a duty on lumber, or on some other item, that section must consent to the granting of a duty on every other article in order to secure its own part of the loot. Instead of demanding a duty on raw materials, the consumers of the country are demanding a reduction of the duty on manufactured goods, in the hopes of keeping living expenses within the income.

Mr. Bryan is defending the interests of the people in his demand for free raw materials. If those readers who agree with Mr. Bryan in his fight against protective duties and a higher cost of living will pledge themselves to secure ten or more subscribers to his paper, so that he may place his arguments before them each week, it will enable him to counteract the misrepresentations of the corporation press.

To enable Commoner readers to assist in the work of circulating this paper, a special rate of 60 cents in clubs of five has been made. The co-operation of every reader of this paper is asked in this effort to enlarge The Commoner's circulation.

Braxton H. Tabb, Richmond, Va.—Enclosed please find postoffice order for one year's subscription. I took your paper during the campaign of 1908, saw so much in it that I subscribed for the year after the campaign closed and now find it is quite impossible to do without it as, in my opinion, it hews to the line of true democracy, standing for what is good and clean in our government. Mr. Bryan has been battling for democracy to present a united front to the enemy and it being so is out of the question unless those we elect to office regard the party platform and endeavor to fulfill its pledges, without quibble, and in endeavoring to render some aid. I have every hope for the success of your great paper.

H. E. Frisbie, Pine River, Wis.—Enclosed find check for \$3 to renew Commoner for five years. It gladdens one's very soul to have you come out on the temperance question as you did in your article on "Personal Liberty," in issue number 45. Your head is level on most issues; it certainly is on this.

Rev. Finley R. Crooks, McArthur, O.—Enclosed find \$2 for this year and next. I am doing what little I can to help the propaganda of tariff reform but we will have to readjust our whole economic system, co-operation and not competition. No use to talk of going back to the simpler times of our fathers. The movement is steadily away from that. I was greatly pleased with The Commoner's editorial on "Personal Liberty."

D. T. Woodard, Benton, Ill.—To increase Commoner subscriptions I can think of no better way than to start an endless chain of subscribers by paying for and sending two new subscribers, they in turn to send a like number of subscribers, the object being for some democrat or several in at least each county to act on this at once and set the plan in motion. Would it not be well to make a rate for this plan? Of course, by getting three others or more the rate of 60 cents would apply. Now and then one will be tempted to send the name of a republican and the only objection to this is the breaking of the chain, but if he is a reading and thinking republican I can't think it would be amiss to drop one among them now and then, considering things generally. A tariff for protection policy has no place in the democratic party and our representatives who voted for pie for a favored few will get theirs, in my judgment. Of all times I have ever seen now is the time to make the free raw material fight and for a lower tariff generally as necessities are advancing in price and that without their being anything whatever in business conditions to justify same. Of course, this comes from raising the tariff last summer and the favored few who put

up the republican campaign fund are reaping a harvest, but the plain people who are the consumers can not go on this way indefinitely. Something must be done. Enclosed find \$6 for ten subscribers. If this is not too long I should like to add a word plain to everybody, i. e. Mr. Bryan has made the people's cause or the great popular rights his life's study and work and when he is criticised never forget to look for the motive back of it. He will yet be rewarded probably by the presidency, but I can not believe that is his ambition. He sees the injustice of conditions and can not remain quiet. The man is what he is and is as he is and who shall say he could be other than he is? I wish The Commoner and its force every success.

Henry Beckman, Clayton, Ill.—I include herewith \$1 in payment for my subscription to The Commoner for another year. I am nearly as slow in sending this as the republican administration is in their downward revision of the tariff. I want to congratulate and commend you for the work that you are doing and while there is no immediate prospect of your being our president, yet I feel that you are doing a great deal for the human race in working for the principles that you advocate, in the interest of which you have been so faithful and persistent. I feel that if the tariff law were printed in sections, in pamphlet form, together with some of the speeches that were made by the republican senators when it was being discussed in the senate, that it would make good campaign literature. I would like for you to explain through The Commoner about the additional 25 per cent. Is this to be placed on all the schedules on March 1, 1910, or is this to be handed to the president to be used in making trade deals with foreign countries? Please explain through The Commoner.—(It is given to the president to be used in making trade deals. He explained in his recent message that it is not likely the power will ever be exercised except in the way of bringing about "friendly negotiations."—Editor Commoner.)

As an indication of what may be done by a little effort it may be said that subscriptions to The Commoner have recently been sent in by the following named readers and in number as follows:

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