

The Commoner.

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Drifting Toward Royalty.

The appointment of special envoys to represent the United States government at the coronation of King Edward indicates a weakening of American sentiment and a lowering of American ideals. Surely, our ambassador at the Court of St. James can give expression to all the interest which Americans feel in the crowning of England's sovereign. Do the emperors of the old world send distinguished personages to dance attendance upon our president when he assumes the duties imposed upon him by the suffrages of his countrymen? Why, then, should American representatives hang around a throne and pay homage to one who rules, not by the voice of the people or because of personal merit, but because he is the eldest son of one who in turn inherited the privilege of exercising authority? It takes generations to cultivate the courtier's bow and the worshipful mien, and our envoys are apt to excite the derision that is expressed toward those who show the fawning spirit, but fawn awkwardly. King Edward ought to make the most of this evidence of the decadence of the American spirit for the demonstration may not be repeated. He should announce that the proud heir of George III. accepts with pleasure the respectful adoration of the repentant descendants of George Washington. A dispatch from the national capital says:

In diplomatic circles considerable surprise is manifested at the unusual interest taken by this country in the coronation. This government, it is pointed out, is setting a dangerous precedent. Similar action must be taken on like occasions throughout Europe, else offense will be given.

Another suggestion is to the effect that inasmuch as Great Britain is at war with two republics, the sending of a special embassy to London at this time amounts practically to an approval of Great Britain's course in South Africa.

It must be remembered that there are many kings in Europe and we cannot well discriminate. We cannot afford to show special interest in one king and indifference toward others, and we can still less afford to show more interest in the inauguration of an imperial reign than the crowned heads show in the presidential succession. But in addition to the general and fundamental objections to the special attention shown in this case, it must be remembered that our conspicuous observance of the coronation will be regarded everywhere as evidence that we are in hearty sympathy with England's cruel war against the South African republics. To be silent when we should express sympathy with the Boers is bad enough, but to show in an ostentatious way our approval of England's course is infinitely worse. From sending a ship for Kossuth to sending special representatives to attend a king's coronation—what a fall!

Look at Texas.

Recently the Chicago Tribune had an editorial with relation to the enforcement of the anti-trust law in Texas. In this editorial the Tribune claimed that "some foreign capital has been withdrawn from the state."

Fulton Williams, a resident of Houston, writes to the Tribune to say that foreign capital has not been withdrawn from Texas. Mr. Williams explains that the two companies against whom the anti-trust law was originally enforced are still in business in the Lone Star state, having complied

with the law and judgment of the courts, and that these companies intend to remain there.

Mr. Williams explains:

Our anti-trust law seems to be better than the average, but no corporation or individual need have fear of the results if they choose to invest their money in Texas. In this case they were caught "dead to rights" and there was no alternative but to walk up and settle. It is a source of much gratification to the citizens of this state that we have such laws and officials who have the moral courage to enforce them. Texas is all right. If you don't believe it, come down and we "will show you."

The threat that capital will be withdrawn simply because corporations are required to comply with the law is an old one and it is strange that it will have any effect upon intelligent men. That threat has been used to prevent legislation sought to be enacted in the public interests. It has been employed in the effort to deter public officials from enforcing wholesome laws and too often the threat has succeeded.

But in Texas they have a trust law and they have officials who are not afraid to enforce that law. As a result public interests are well served and corporations, finding that it is useless for them to defy authority and violate the laws of Texas, content themselves with doing business in a lawful manner in one of the greatest and best of the union of states.

The Second Year.

With this issue The Commoner enters upon the second year of its existence. The first subscription was received on the day following the announcement of my purpose to establish the paper, and every week since has shown an increase in the number of paid subscriptions.

For the first three months the paper contained only eight pages, but four more pages—a 50 per cent increase—were added when advertising was accepted. The advertising has been limited, first, because I have rejected some kinds of advertising as unfit for a family paper; second, because I have not cared to advertise trust-made goods—and with the growth of trusts this class amounts to more and more. While the exclusion of trust advertisements reduces the revenues of the paper I can discuss the trust question without having to consider the effect of the editorial on my income; third, because many of the large advertisers are so prejudiced against democratic principles that they will not "encourage" a paper established solely for the defense of those principles.

The readers of the paper can increase the advertising patronage by mentioning the paper in corresponding with advertisers. No advertising matter is accepted until investigation is made as to the responsibility of the advertiser, and subscribers are asked to notify me if any advertiser attempts fraud or deception.

Some disappointment was expressed at first because The Commoner did not devote more space to general news, but the readers now understand that it is not my purpose to duplicate the work of the news weeklies, made up from the columns of the great dailies, or to take the place of the local papers, but rather to present a weekly summary and discussion of the important events which have national significance.

I fully recognize the work done by the country weeklies and am so anxious to strengthen them and increase their influence that I have lost no

opportunity to commend and encourage them. The Weekly Press Forum, containing extracts selected from nearly four thousand exchanges, not only gives wide circulation to the editorials quoted, but enables the country editors to know what is being said in other parts of the country.

In answer to the suggestion that The Commoner should enter into competition with illustrated papers like Harper's Weekly and Collier's Weekly, it is sufficient to say that these papers cost considerably more and I prefer to publish a paper within the reach of those in whose interests it is edited. Those who seek news and news only can find it anywhere, but those who are studying public questions from a democratic standpoint will find few if any papers that devote as much space to the discussion of these subjects.

The first year has been a success, and with the opening of the congressional campaign the interest in national politics should increase. Recognizing that conversions are made more by arguments between neighbors than by editorials or speeches, it will be my constant aim to fortify the readers with facts and reasons that can be used in these local discussions. The position of the opposition will be candidly stated and fairly met and I shall be grateful to any one who will point out an error either in fact or in logic. The Commoner believes in making an open fight for honest principles and it appeals to the conscience and judgment rather than to the prejudice of its readers. The paper will be published as long as the receipts are sufficient to cover the cost of publication, but the influence of the paper will depend largely upon the efforts made by subscribers to extend its circulation. If you think the paper useful, tell your neighbors about it. The subscription price is small compared with the amount wasted on things that are neither helpful nor of permanent enjoyment. It can hardly be said by any one that he cannot afford to subscribe, and no one gives that excuse who is pleased with the work that the paper is trying to do. I acknowledge anew my obligation to those who have given their cordial support to the enterprise and trust that the paper may continue to commend itself to democrats who believe in the Kansas City platform, to our allies in other reform parties, and to liberal-minded republicans.

Observing Jackson's Day.

Mr. Cleveland was invited to address a gathering of democratic lawyers in Philadelphia on Jackson's Day. In expressing regret at his inability to be present, Mr. Cleveland wrote:

I am glad to know that there are at least thirty young democrats in Philadelphia who are unwilling to allow Jackson's Day to pass without recognition. The inclination to neglect observance of a day that has been so long and so strongly related to genuine democratic sentiments may reasonably, I think, be counted among the afflictive visitations that have lately weakened and depressed our party organization. I hope the spirit of true Jacksonian democracy may pervade your celebration and that its participants may derive satisfaction and stimulation from their efforts to revive and strengthen the principles and practices of our old-time, honest, consistent and aggressive democratic faith.

Simply because Mr. Cleveland and some of his political associates have in recent years neglected the observance of the day "that has been so long and so strongly related to genuine democratic sentiments," he seems to imagine that there is a