

ANNOUNCEMENT

1903 == THE COMMONER == 1903

On December 17, 1900, it was announced through the Associated press that Mr. Bryan was about to begin the publication of a weekly newspaper to be known as *The Commoner*. Subscriptions began coming in immediately, and soon taxed the resources at hand to properly care for them. On January 23, 1901, the first number of *The Commoner* made its appearance. The paper then consisted of eight pages, but before the end of the first year it was increased in size to twelve pages, and during the second year to sixteen pages. The circulation of *The Commoner* has made a steady growth, each week showing an increase over the preceding week until the paper, as it nears the end of its second year, has a circulation of 140,000.

The year 1903 will be full of interest to those who are studying governmental problems. During the next twelve months the lines will be formed upon which the next national campaign will be fought. During this period it will be decided whether the gold-corporation element known as "the reorganizers" will gain control of the democratic party, or whether the party will remain true to democratic principles as they are set forth in the Kansas City platform.

It is the purpose of *The Commoner* to carry on a campaign of education and organization to the end that democratic principles may triumph; and thinking men and women, of whatever political faith, who desire to study both sides of pending questions will find in the columns of *The Commoner* much valuable information.

The Commoner's Departments

While the editorial department of *The Commoner* is given the place of paramount importance, the reader will find other departments equally interesting and, in their line, fully as valuable. These departments are in capable hands.

Current Topics

This department was established a few months ago and has been received with great favor. Herein will be found a non-partisan discussion of topics of timely interest and a wealth of information concerning political, social, economic, and business happenings in all parts of the world. There will be more for the student of affairs in this "Current Topics" department during the com-

ing year than will be found in any similar department of other newspapers. This feature of *The Commoner* will be handled by one who has wide experience in general newspaper work, and it will be worth many times the cost of a subscription. "Current Topics," taken in connection with other departments of the paper, will make *The Commoner* one of the leading family newspapers of the entire country. The editor takes especial pride in recommending this department to those in search of interesting and helpful information of a general character.

The Home Department

The "Home Department" is conducted by Mrs. Helen Watts McVey, whose reputation as a writer on household topics is not confined to any one section of the country. During the year Mrs. McVey will present, in the department under her charge, many useful and instructive articles on Household Science, and from week to week will offer many little hints and helpful suggestions to housekeepers—to mothers, wives, and sisters, with occasional suggestions that should be called to the attention of fathers, husbands, and sons. The recipes given by Mrs. McVey will be valuable because given by one who has studied the art of cookery. An interesting feature of the "Home Department" during the year will be the "Query Box," wherein readers of *The Commoner* will find answers to any questions they may ask concerning matters properly belonging to a household department. Communications should be addressed to "Home Department, *The Commoner*, Lincoln, Neb."

Whether Common or Not

Under this unique heading Mr. Will M. Maupin contributes each week a fund of verse, anecdote, wit, and philosophy that has met with widespread appreciation. Many political and moral lessons are to be found in this department, couched in homely and humorous phrase that will appeal to old and young alike. The extent to which Mr. Maupin's department is reprinted in the daily and weekly press is proof of its popularity.

News of the Week

Recognizing the demand for a brief summary of the world's important news *The Commoner* will give each week in narrative form the chief news of interest. This department will be con-

ducted with a view to giving the most news in the fewest possible words, and will be most acceptable to those busy readers who have not the time to digest the mass of matter found in the daily newspapers.

Weekly Press Forum

In this department will be grouped the best thoughts of the weekly newspapers advocating the principles of democracy. *The Commoner* serving as a clearing house for the editors of weekly newspapers who are battling for the supremacy of democratic principles. This will enable them to profit by examining the opinions and arguments of their fellow-workers. This department will be of especial interest because it will indicate the strength of democracy in various sections of the country.

Miscellaneous

During the year *The Commoner* will present articles on miscellaneous topics from other newspapers, often for the purpose of making comment thereon. Humorous sketches, anecdotes, poems, and items of unusual interest, together with editorial comment from other newspapers, will be found herein.

It is the constant aim of the editor and publisher to make a newspaper that will appeal to all members of the family. Nothing will be allowed to appear in its columns that cannot be discussed around the fireside with profit to every member of the family. The advertising department will be as carefully edited as other departments, and all advertisements of a questionable nature will be rigidly excluded. No advertisements are accepted until every means is exhausted to ascertain their reliability, and if subscribers find that they have been deceived by misrepresentation they are urgently invited to report the facts at once to the publisher.

A Mine of Information

The Commoner for 1903 will be a mine of information on political and social topics, and will be worthy of preservation. The subscription price, \$1.00, places it within reach of all, while *The Commoner's* clubbing and combination offers will enable those who wish to enlarge the scope of their reading to do so at a remarkably small outlay.

FOR OUR CLUBBING OFFERS SEE PAGE SIXTEEN

A number of *The Commoner's* friends still have in their possession "Lots of Five" subscription cards. They will confer a favor on the publisher by placing them among their friends and securing their immediate return to this office properly filled out. *The Commoner* needs the assistance of these new subscribers in an important political work it is about to begin.

The president is to be commended for his refusal to pardon a Kentucky bank embezzler. It has been too much the custom of our federal executives to pardon the big criminals and leave the less conspicuous ones to do service for the state.

A bank official deals with trust funds and lives amid an environment that teaches him the difference between right and wrong. When he sins his guilt is greater than the guilt of the ordinary thief and the wrong does he affects more people.

The reorganizers of Indiana are blaming the supporters of the Kansas City platform for the small vote cast for the democratic state ticket this year. This is hardly fair. Mr. N. J. Bozarth of Valparaiso, Ind., calls attention to the unfairness of this and points out that it was the action of the state convention in turning down the national platform and endeavoring to please the

democrats who voted against the platform rather than the democrats who had been loyal to the party.

A reader of *The Commoner*, commenting on the tendency of the republicans to put the dollar above everything else, suggests that local paragraphs in their papers should read like this: "John Brown, who lives \$13 miles southeast of this city is here on a visit. He will remain \$2 or \$3 days." It is an emphatic way of bringing out the disposition of the republican leaders to look at everything from a money standpoint.