

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

MR. BRYAN'S LETTERS

Mr. Bryan took passage on the Pacific Mail steamship Manchuria, which sailed from San Francisco September 27.

He will go to Japan via Honolulu. After a few weeks in Japan he will proceed to China, the Philippine Islands, India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Holland and the British Isles.

The trip will occupy about one year, and the readers of The Commoner will be able to follow Mr. Bryan from the letters which will be published in The Commoner from time to time.

Mr. Loomis has the whitewash, but Mr. Bowen has the records.

The people seem determined to eliminate the "big mitt" from politics.

Alphonse Root and Gaston Taft are bowing and scraping, but that is not digging the Panama canal.

"You are another," is the only defense that the g. o. p. managers have been able to make in the insurance disclosures.

Butte, Mont., has just had a big fire, but the citizens call attention to the fact that it didn't seem to make Butte a bit "hotter town."

Slason Thompson maintains that the newspaper campaign against rate legislation is proper. Doubtless he will admit that it is also profitable.

A scientist declares that a girl's bite is more poisonous than a rattlesnake's. But this will not give the rattlers any greater favor.

Chairman Shonts might report the discovery of oil on the isthmus and let the Standard Oil company do the rest.

A New York insurance journal refers to "the reptile press." The press has scotched a lot of snakes lately, hasn't it?

The time draws near when the country will await with a shudder the announcement of a shortage in the turkey crop.

Senator Elkins is preparing a rate bill which he will introduce at the next session. Puzzle: What will it profit the people?

The Minneapolis Journal wants more elasticity in a ton of coal. Gee, don't the ton shrink enough between the scales and the shed?

The women may have the last word eventually, but it will be a small one because Mr. Cleveland has a monopoly on the big and ambiguous ones.

Perhaps Senator Foraker reached the conclusion that if the machine ticket lost out in Philadelphia his speaking in its behalf would not help to inflate his presidential boom.

The Commoner.

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Secretary Shaw is still talking about "elastic currency," but he forgets to mention the "snap back" plan that has been in vogue so long.

Why should "Boss" Cox of Ohio complain about "throwing mud?" A thick coating of mud would greatly enhance the appearance of the Cox machine.

The Washington Post says that what the insurance companies need is a lid-holder. Wrong—what the insurance companies need is a kettle-cleaner.

Three-fourths of the Oregon delegation to congress has been sentenced to jail. But this may be because the interior department began on Oregon first.

"Gas" Addicks denies the report that he is to retire from politics, and he makes the declaration in the tones of a man who has just been rudely shoved.

"It would help some," remarks an esteemed contemporary, "if there was some way of shutting off yellow verse about brown October." It does make us blue.

China is determined to get her railroads out of the hands of foreigners. Most of them are held by Americans, and China has evidently been watching railroad developments in this country.

A deficit of \$4,000,000 which no one can explain has been discovered in the Dutch treasury. Doubtless some eminent publicist has been endeavoring to "preserve the national honor" of Holland.

People who are waiting to read Senator Depew's testimony before the investigating committee with the expectation of finding it humorous are quite sure to bump up against a lugubrious wail instead.

Secretary Shaw has been making the rounds of two or three southern states, swapping superheated atmosphere for negro delegates. This is better than putting up money and having them Shermanized.

Treasurer Bliss of the g. o. p. national committee, declares that he "has nothing to say," concerning the revelations in the insurance investigation. In view of all the facts brought out it is not difficult to explain the Bliss silence.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean advances the argument that the packers should not be punished because they have made Chicago a great city. But those same packers blighted the packing prospects of Lincoln, Nebraska, as well as of several other ambitious cities.

"Uncle Sam is the richest man in the world," shouts the Sioux City Journal. Quite correct, and it is really wonderful, too, considering how his purse is being constantly robbed by a gang of political looters who pose as patriots and "defenders of the national honor."

Mr. Schwab has suddenly manifested a great interest in the workmen who mine coal and make steel rails. Unless the tariff is maintained these men will suffer, declares Mr. Schwab. In the meanwhile Mr. Schwab and other steel magnates continue to sell rails abroad cheaper than they sell them at home, and there are thousands of otherwise sensible citizens who can not see the point.

The Lewis and Clark exposition will pay all expenses and return a neat dividend to the enterprising men who advanced the money. This speaks well for the managers, and for all interested. It is the second exposition of more than local prominence to return money to the subscribers, the first being the Trans-Mississippi exposition at Omaha, which returned a fraction over 90 per cent.

The men who would profit by reason of a ship subsidy are the men who have already profited by insurance graft, watered stocks and special tariff privileges, and the people are in no humor to foot any more bills for the benefit of such men. Senator Lodge should get far enough away from home to lose at least the scent of the sacred codfish. In that way he might learn something of the temper of the people.

"The meat producers have been losing money for three years," says Secretary Wilson. There is something puzzling about this statement. Does Secretary Wilson mean to call the packers the meat producers, or does he so refer to the cattle raisers? If he refers to the packers we must adopt the idea that the packers are very philanthropic before we can accept his statement as true. If he refers to the cattle raisers there will be no argument. The primary meat producers—the men who raise the cattle—have been losing money for even more than three years. But the packers have been going ahead declaring dividends, building palatial residences, spending the summers abroad and the winters in the south. Secretary Wilson should be more specific. It would prevent worry and misunderstanding.

Raisers
or
Packers?

Senator Foraker is certainly entitled to the championship belt as the greatest "republican gloom discoverer" of the day. It was Senator Foraker who discovered that a vote against the corrupt Cox machine in Ohio was a menace to republican supremacy in the nation. It was Senator Foraker who discovered that if the rotten Durham republican machine is defeated in Philadelphia it will threaten republican supremacy in the nation. "Defeat Herrick and you threaten the welfare of the American workingman," shouts the excited senator from Ohio. "Defeat the republican city ticket in Philadelphia and our republican institutions totter to their fall!" he shouts in excited tones. According to the excited senator the defeat of Herrick will wipe out the pension bureau, break down the tariff walls, destroy the gold standard, reduce the circulating medium and create a great financial panic. All this would be wonderfully interesting if true, but being only laughable the senator adds to the gaiety of the times by his frantic declarations.

Foraker's
Gloom Works
Bury

At a recent diocesan convention in the neighborhood of New York Rev. John Marshall Chew of Newburgh offered the following resolution: "That no talent for high finance, no useful service to the community, no benefaction to the church or to objects of philanthropy can excuse or atone for dereliction in trust, contempt for the rights of others, or disregard of the rules of common honesty." Bishop Potter opposed the resolution and advised Rev. M. Chew that it was untimely, and remarked to the effect that we should not pass judgment till a final verdict has been rendered by those who are investigating. The New York Evening Post, with charming sarcasm anent Bishop Potter's views that "the church will get into no end of trouble if it meddles with morals, especially those of the rich." Then the Post mildly remarks that Rev. Chew "would certainly not presume to set up mere morality instead of law as a test of conduct." If this sarcasm has no effect let them refer to the little biblical incident of the fable Jotham related to Abimelech concerning the trees that would have a king to rule over them. It would seem that Bishop Potter is seeking shade beneath some very thin financial timber.

Some
Sarcastic
Comment

"Little birds in the nest should agree," and Iowa republican editors should get together on the tariff question. A short time ago the Webster City Freeman-Tribune published the following editorial paragraph: "The republican party may as well get ready to face and meet the fact that tariff revision will be one of the chiefest political issues in the near future. The consensus of opinion is to the effect that the time is ripe, or at least rapidly ripening, for some changes in the schedules of tariff rates." The Tribune added to this paragraph a line or two to the effect that the Des Moines Capital, chief organ of the "standpatters," would hardly presume to make a denial of the assumptions therein contained. But the Capital did. The Capital retorted in this wise: "Sifted to the bottom the conclusion is amply warranted that the only serious demand for tariff revision emanates from democratic and mugwumpian sources, where all tariff schedules are held in contempt, and from which assaults upon the protective system have been periodically made for fifty years." And then the Freeman-Tribune, chuckling with glee, pointed out the fact that its paragraph appeared as an original editorial in the Des Moines Capital of July 11, 1901. "Uncle Lafe" Young should hasten home and get the Capital's tariff policy on straight.

Caught
The Capital
Napping