

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

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Edit. Rms. and Business Office, Suite 207 Press Bldg.

One Year \$1.00 Three Months .25
Six Months .50 Single Copy .10
In Clubs of Five or more, per year. .75
Sample Copies Free.
Foreign Post, 25c Extra

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.

Mr. Hughes talked to the people of Portland, Oregon, in the ice palace. Yet they say political campaign managers have no sense of humor.

The Washington statisticians figure it out that the per capita wealth of the United States is now \$2,000. A man of judgment ought to be able to get two automobiles for that price.

The republicans are trying to drag the wet and dry issue into the national campaign. At least some of them are saying that Hughes is a candidate with a punch.

Nobody seems to care for the barber vote in this campaign. Senator J. Hamilton Lewis is to follow Candidate Hughes's trail across the country and Mr. Fairbanks is to follow Lewis.

Betting in Wall street early in September was 6 to 5 that Hughes would be elected. But then Wall street is always a better indicator of what Wall street hopes will happen than Wall street thinks will occur.

The Hon. Robert Bacon ought to make a formidable candidate for senator in the New York republican primaries. Mr. Bacon has the advantage over his opponent of having once been a member of the Morgan firm.

The republican campaigners are making what they can out of the declaration of President Wilson that there are times when a nation is too proud to fight, but what is really worrying them is whether the G. O. P. is too proud to be licked.

The resources of the national banks of the United States increased over two billion dollars last year. The bankers who believe that this is only a temporary prosperity we are enjoying must have remarkable powers of self-deception.

The Brandegee faction in Connecticut politics is endeavoring to secure the consent of Former President Taft to become a candidate for the senate. If Mr. Taft will consult the 1912 election returns he will find it much safer to launch his candidacy in Utah or Vermont.

W. L. Harding, the republican candidate for governor in Iowa, declares that he is the "mud road candidate." Whether this course is taken to defy the automobile vote or merely to make the going harder for his opponents is not made clear.

For the year ending June 30th last the deposits in the national banks of the country increased nearly 25 per cent, or over two billion dollars. It is too bad that this "temporary prosperity" persists in interfering with the arguments and prospects of the republican party.

The Dixon Libel

The following letter has been received from a friend:

"Dear Col. Bryan: Thos. Dixon has produced an extravagant moving picture along the exact lines of 'The Battle Cry of Peace.' I witnessed its scenes at a private exhibition yesterday. It will be shown at \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.00 prices.

"It contains the most unnecessary, and the most cruel insult to you that Dixon's brain could conceive. At a great 'Peace meeting' arranged by the 'secret enemies' of the United States, a man picked to resemble you, and who does resemble you greatly, is shown as the principal speaker, and is shown as delaying the meeting until he is paid his price for speaking. He insists on 'regular Chautauqua rates.' The man who pays him says: 'Then you are not for 'Peace at any price?'"—Your impersonator is made ridiculous in other scenes.

"Of course your recognizing this gratuitous insult will simply play into the fellow's hands, and my purpose in writing you is simply to inform you (the picture will be seen by its million or two) so that if your friends can do anything about it they will have your opinion and wishes to guide them."

I appreciate the generous interest manifested by my friend, and the letter gives me an opportunity to explain to the readers of The Commoner why I have not taken notice of the libel.

A public man, who feels it his duty to attack vested wrongs, must expect abuse from those who find profit in supporting these wrongs. The king's courtiers will, of course, defend the king—it is their business to feel offended by any attack made upon him. Mr. Dixon is a defender of the special interests and it will doubtless net him a large sum just now when a subsidized press is manufacturing war scares.

He broke into the campaign in 1896 on the same side and as full of venom as now. He was one of the preachers who, by concerted action, rushed to the defense of Wall street in the closing days of 1896. The New York World, speaking of his sermon and the crowd to which he spoke said:

"When he called Bryan 'a mouthing, slobbering demagogue, whose patriotism was all in his jaw-bone,' the audience howled."

Just now the manufacturers of munitions and the papers subservient to them are attempting to frighten the nation into a change of its character and policy.

"The Battle Cry of Peace" was found so profitable that Mr. Dixon couldn't withstand the temptation to gather in a share of the shekels.

There are many reasons, any one of which is sufficient, why it would be unwise to attempt to punish him by law.

In the first place it would give advertisement to his play, and this would be of pecuniary value to him far beyond any damages that could be expected.

Second, a suit, if successful, would put an end to a display of sordidness and malice which must, in itself, more than counteract the personal harm which the plan is intended to do.

The attempt which is now being made to transform this nation from the world's greatest moral force into a military power, following at the tail end of the European procession, and relying for its hope of peace upon its ability to terrorize the world, is supported by three powerful groups, namely, the manufacturers of munitions, the militarists, and the big employers of labor—the latter want a great standing army with which to overawe their employees. If these men, and the sycophants who fawn about them, find it necessary to resort to such misrepresentation as Mr. Dixon is guilty of, the public will be more quickly awakened to the real situation, and those who are attacked can afford to endure the injustice, if it hastens the reaction which, when it comes, will sweep these sham patriots into oblivion.

Third—As an additional reason I may add that I could not take legal notice of Mr. Dixon's intended insults without seeming to doubt the value of the life I have tried to lead. I have been before the public for twenty-five years and in that time have passed through three presidential campaigns in which there has been no lack of incentive for attack. If those in charge of the republican organization have been unable to do me harm, I would be paying Mr. Dixon an undeserved compliment if I credited him with

the ability to accomplish what the representatives of a great political party have been unable to accomplish.

I shall continue in the future, as I have in the past, to advocate that which I believe to be right and for the good of the country. I accept, before the public, responsibility for what I say and do.

I have confidence in that sense of justice which God has implanted in the human heart—a virtue which even Mr. Dixon and those whom he represents can neither destroy nor dull.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE ARCADIAN ROAD

Mr. Horace G. Cupples, a civil engineer of St. Louis, has published a little volume entitled "Arcadian Highway," in which he outlines a plan for a highway eighty rods wide from Chicago to the gulf, with model farms and gardens on each side. His dream is first to construct a MODEL HIGHWAY; second, to furnish labor for the unemployed in building it, and, third, to make the land along the highway both beautiful and useful.

It is an ambitious plan, and yet not impossible of realization. Why not? The good roads movement is here, and here to stay. In time we shall have international highways running in all directions, and it is natural that the beginning should be made with one from New York to San Francisco and from Chicago to New Orleans. Then will follow highways from New York to the southwest and from Chicago to the southeast and to the northwest, etc. The hard road will help to solve the railroad problem as well as many other problems. If governmental action is delayed the Cupples plan may serve to start the work—it might even be a toll road until the government is ready to take it over.

HUGHES'S HUMILIATING CONFESSION

A St. Louis Post-Dispatch correspondent quotes candidate Hughes as saying:

"Some people think I should say what I shall do to stop the practices that I am attacking, I have frankly replied that I don't know. But in that respect I've got nothing on Wilson. He doesn't know, either. I know that these practices exist and I know that if I am elected president they shall not continue to exist."

This is a humiliating confession. "Isn't it enough to make any American hang his head in shame"—as Mr. Hughes is in the habit of saying. It is not necessary to give any weight to his charge against the President, for if he does not know what ought to be done he is in no position to criticize, but it is certainly a 100 per cent confession against himself.

SENATORIAL COURTESY

The President, it is reported, will send Mr. Rublee's name to the senate again. Good. Let him keep sending until the senate drops its antiquated doctrine called "senatorial courtesy," by means of which senators stand together and enforce a power entirely contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

Ratification of appointments by the senate was never intended to furnish senators an opportunity for personal revenge. It was intended to make more certain the appointment of competent and trustworthy officials.

Sand-bagging is no more honorable in the senate than on the street; the President is right in insisting that appointees be judged on their merits and not be made the victims of personal resentments.

NO WONDER ROOSEVELT'S MAD

It is not strange that it makes Mr. Roosevelt mad to read over the President's remarkable records of reforms. Mr. Roosevelt had more than twice as long a time in the White house as the President has had, and yet he went out with but a meager record in the way of remedial legislation. It must provoke him to think that he might have left as splendid a record as the President made, but for two things: First, he lacked the DESIRE FOR REFORM, and, second, a republican congress would not have joined him in the making of such a record. The President HAD THE DESIRE for reform and he had a democratic congress in hearty sympathy with him.

Those republicans who are trying to base a criticism of the democratic administration on the fact that it has thrown republicans out of official positions and placed democrats in their stead seem to have forgotten that just such a plan was in the voters' mind when they changed the administration.