

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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

One Year .....	\$1.00	Three Months .....	25c
Six Months .....	.50c	Single Copy .....	5c
In Clubs of 5 or more, per year .....	.75c	Sample Copies Free.	
		Foreign Postage 5c Extra.	

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** can be sent direct to *The Commoner*. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

**RENEWALS.**—The date on your wrapper shows when your subscription will expire. Thus, Jan. 31, '06, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1905. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give OLD as well as the NEW address.

**ADVERTISING** rates furnished upon application. Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The explanations are now in order.

Organization is the advance agent of success.

Special privilege is the foe of genuine democracy.

The battle for democratic principles is just begun.

Every "sweat shop" manager is opposed to labor unions.

The "I told you so" political prophet is now taking his innings.

And there is still another fight left in the good old democratic party.

The flat purse has been dictated by fashion, and compelled by the trusts.

As was expected, the Panama deal is developing a great amount of friction.

Public ownership of the railroads vs. railroad ownership of the public. Which?

The dirigible airship has come. The serviceable airship may not, after all, be very far in the future.

An interstate commerce commission that has not the power to enforce its judgments is lacking in power.

The Russo-Japanese war may now get in front of the spot light and secure the undivided attention of the people.

"Now that the smoke of battle has cleared away" it is a good time to begin "smoking up" for the next battle.

Economic reform should be the watchword. One reform needed is the election of senators by direct vote of the people.

The English inventor who journeyed to Russia to sell the czar breastplates for his soldiers learned something to his disadvantage.

Organize democratic clubs in every precinct, and get ready for the battle for democratic principles that is scheduled for 1908.

The indications are that if Colombia will just be patient she will have plenty to rejoice over before this Panama case is finally settled.

Now that the election has been held the cabinet officers may return to Washington and do a little something towards earning their salaries.

Every extension of *The Commoner's* circulation widens its sphere of influence and increases the interest in the success of democratic principles. Read the liberal subscription order published in another column of this issue.

## The Commoner.

Now that the campaign is over perhaps Secretary Shaw will be able to recognize a deficit when he sees it.

When safety appliances become cheaper than human life, the railroads will not be such constant causes of death.

Strange to relate, Mr. Hay did not roll up his shirt sleeves and settle that little Baltic fleet matter with his inimitable diplomacy.

Mr. Tyner might reply to the president's reply by calling attention to repeated republican demands for respect for the courts.

The agreement to leave that Baltic fleet and the agreement to leave that Baltic fleet and to cause The Hague tribunal to step forward and demand greater recognition.

"Buffalo Bill's" anxiety to chase bank robbers suddenly diminished when the genial showman remembered that the season for the press agent had closed.

There will be another national election in 1908, and it behooves democratic democrats to begin preparing for it right now. Today is not too early to begin.

The boasted "big stick" is always apparent when the g. o. p. goes after the trusts, because it always sticks before it does anything. In trust busting the "big stick" is always "stuck."

When postmasters are elected by the people whom they must serve, instead of being appointed by politicians whose ends they must advance, there will be a better chance of reform in the postal department.

When the railway coaches intended for the conveyance of the general public are as strongly built as the private cars built for the use of the railroad officials, the casualty list of railroad accidents will be vastly decreased.

President Eliot of Harvard is opposed to labor unions and the "closed shop." President Eliot must be catering to the wealthy gentlemen who are seeking to make more profit by securing the privilege of lengthening the hours of labor and decreasing the wages.

Now that it is no longer necessary for him to put in his time making stump speeches the attorney general may devote some of his time to solving the beef puzzle—why the price of cattle on the hoof keeps declining and the price of beef on the block keeps climbing.

A Panama republic was recognized in thirty minutes. The Filipinos had schools and universities and were fighting for freedom before Panama had a semblance of civilization. There was money in recognizing Panama, and there is money for somebody in refusing to grant justice to the Filipinos.

The Russian naval officer who saw eight Japanese torpedo boats where there were only a half-dozen fishing smacks would be a valuable acquisition to this government's statistical department. He could help Carroll D. Wright make figures showing that increased cost of living and decreased wages were extremely beneficial to the workingmen of the country.

The shameless abuse of the mails is a matter that deserves the attention of the postoffice officials. For months the mails have been loaded down with matter sent out under congressional frank but which was in no wise entitled to the privilege.

**Abuse of the Mail System**  
Tons of this matter have been carried over the country free of charge to the committees, but at immense cost to the general government. It is a heavy expense to the postoffice department, because it provides absolutely no revenue, and is an unfair advantage, because it makes the general public bear the expense of circulating campaign literature. During the mail weighing seasons, when a basis for payment for transporting the mails is being secured, tons of similar matter are hauled. It is a fraud that should be stopped, along with a number of others that are apparent in the postal department.

## Democracy vs. Plutocracy

### —The Election's Lesson

(Continued from page 1.)

they received any promises of aid or immunity. No well-informed person doubts that the large corporations have furnished the republican campaign fund during the campaigns of 1896 and 1900 and 1904, and no one can answer the logic of Judge Parker's arraignment of trust contributions. The trusts are run on business principles. They do not subscribe millions of dollars to campaigns unless they are paying for favors already granted or purchasing favors for future delivery. The weakness of Judge Parker's position was that the charge was made at the close of the campaign when it was neutralized by a counter charge. The trusts can not be fought successfully by any party that depends upon trust funds to win the election. The democratic party must make its attack upon the trusts so vehement that no one will suspect of secret aid from them. It will be to its advantage if it will begin the next campaign with an announcement that no trust contributions will be accepted and then prove its sincerity by giving the public access to its contribution list. In public enterprises the names of contributors are generally made public in order to denote the character and purpose of the work.

President Roosevelt has four years in which to make good his declaration that no obligations were incurred by the acceptance of trust funds. He will disappoint either the contributors or the voters. If he disappoints the contributors, the trust question may be put in the process of settlement. If he disappoints the people, they will have a chance to settle with his party four years hence. "Death to every private monopoly," must be the slogan of the party in this question; any other position is a surrender. The platforms of 1900 and 1904 declare that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable, and this declaration presents the issue upon the trust question.

The party must continue its defense of the interests of the wage-earners; it must protect them from the encroachments of capital. The fact that the laboring men have not always shown their appreciation of the party's position ought not to deter the party from doing its duty in regard to them. The labor question is not one that concerns employers and employees alone; it concerns the entire community, and the people at large have an interest in the just settlement of labor controversies; for that reason they must insist upon remedial legislation in regard to hours and arbitration, and they must so limit the authority of the courts in contempt cases as to overthrow what is known as government by injunction.

The party must continue its opposition to national banks of issue and must insist upon divorcing the treasury department from Wall street.

The party must continue its fight for the popular election of senators and for direct legislation wherever the principle can be applied. It must not only maintain its position on old issues, but it must advance to the consideration of new questions as they arise.

It takes time to direct attention to an evil and still more time to consolidate sentiment in favor of a remedy, and Mr. Bryan is not sanguine enough to believe that all the reforms that he favors will at once be endorsed by any party platform, but *The Commoner* will proceed to point out the reforms which he believes to be needed. Among these may be mentioned the postal telegraph system, state ownership of railroads, the election of federal judges for fixed terms, and the election of postmasters by the people of their respective communities. Instead of having the government controlled by corporations through officers chosen by the corporations, we must have a government of the people, by the people and for the people—a government administered according to the Jeffersonian maxim of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." Hope and duty point the way. No doubt the success of our cause is to doubt the triumph of the right, for ours is and must be the cause of the masses. "With malice toward none and charity for all," let us begin the campaign of 1908; let us appeal to the moral sentiment of the country and arraign the policies of the republican party before the bar of the public conscience.