

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

Recent events indicate that frenzied finance is sexless.

It is not too early to begin the work of organizing for the campaigns of 1906 and 1908.

In a couple of days we can refer to it as "the defeat of last year," and that will help some.

Senator Depew is strenuously objecting to the Odellification of his carefully railroadified senatorial boom.

The chief spokesman of the "safe and sane" element seem to have suddenly become silent and meditative.

Senator Smoot seems to realize that he has no need to worry as long as he can keep his present politics on straight.

To a great many people it will appear that Mr. Thomas W. Lawson is being sued for libel merely for spectacular purposes.

The Smoot investigation so far seems to have included about everything save Mrs. Chadwick, "frenzied finance" and Reed Smoot.

Mr. Schwab is reported to have purchased a pair of \$50 shoes. Can it be that Mr. Lawson is making them walk the floor that way?

Every time you pay for a ton of anthracite are you not convinced that it is high time the president do a little more intervening?

One of the humorous things of the day is the spectacle of a Colorado republican organ denouncing the "counting out" process of the south.

The Russian Baltic fleet has arrived at Cape Good Hope. It is the first time a Russian fleet has been anywhere near Hope for some time.

The trouble experienced in getting rid of Judge Swayne is another argument in favor of electing judges for fixed terms by vote of the people.

Dr. Lyman Abbott is not the first man to make the mistake of thinking himself called upon to make the bible a mere literary production.

Owing to circumstances over which they could have had control had they so desired, the people of New York are now compelled to stand to one side and watch the big corporations scrambling for a senatorship.

The eminent gentlemen who are so opposed to the boycott when wielded by union labor are now using it on the advertisers who patronize the magazines that insist on exposing graft and "frenzied finance." The ownership of the ox still cuts an important figure.

Recently *The Commoner* asked for information concerning the book entitled "Ten Men of Money Island." Some 500 readers have our thanks for informing us that the author, Col. S. F. Norton, lives at 544 Ogden avenue, Chicago, and parties desiring copies of the book may address him there.

Chief Engineer Wallace favors building the Panama canal on the level. But doing government work "on the level" is rather unusual, is it not?

The Chicago Chronicle declares that it is the only republican daily newspaper in the Windy city. Chicago seems to be growing better all the time.

The fact that the railroads oppose giving the interstate commerce commission the power to fix rates is a very good reason why the power should be given.

One reason for feeling good this Christmas is the demonstrated fact that it is possible for some one to make the Standard Oil crowd pay some attention.

If the people owned the railroads the senate would have no excuse for guaranteeing the interest on railroad bonds for the benefit of Wall street financiers.

The dismissal of a postal clerk for trying to influence legislation is not a convincing sign that others not in the postal service must quit lobbying for special interests.

Senator Platt views with complacency all efforts to establish a parcels post system. Uncle Tom is right on the spot when it comes to taking care of the express companies.

It is a great deal easier for a court to convict some workman for conspiracy than it is for the government to get after the men who conspire to control the necessities of life.

It would seem that the Smoot investigation is taking in a whole lot of ground in order to skip mention of the agreement by which the Mormon vote was secured to the g. o. p.

The Blue and the Gray will come together in Washington on May 10, 1905. They would have come together in the same place some forty-four years ago if the Blues hadn't beat 'em to it.

The inaugural ball will be a great event, but the spectacle of the trusts being led a merry dance by the legal department of the government is seemingly an awfully long distance in the future.

Congressman Hull's Secretary Shaw will be a candidate for the republican presidential nomination. But why should Congressman Hull put it in the future instead of the present tense?

Every day's delay in prosecuting the coal trust is costing the people of this country more than a million dollars. The legal department of this republic seems to be a very expensive luxury.

Victims of the Humbert swindle in Paris will receive 2 cents on the dollar. This is about 20 mills on the dollar more than the average man gets back after he tries to beat the game on Wall street.

R. K. Lumpkin of Sanford, Fla., writes to ask if the skin of the fresh water gar fish has any market value. If any Commoner reader can answer the query Mr. Lumpkin will be glad to receive it.

Mr. H. H. Rogers says his only intention in suing Lawson for libel is to enforce respect for the dead. If Mr. Rogers will have a little more regard for the living he will be entitled to heartfelt thanks.

Japan assures the world that she is only trying to drive Russia out of Manchuria, but "manifest destiny" winks the other eye and is preparing to camp with the Japs permanently as soon as the Russians have been pushed back.

Mr. Ware seems to have found the pension commissionership burdensome because it gave him no time to write poetry and he was unable to institute business methods. This was enough to discourage any poet and business man.

President Eliot of Harvard is not at all backward in expressing his opposition to trades unionism, and his latest argument

**Logic That is Deviously Complex** against it is that trades unions seek to "restrict output." That is a charge that deserves attention. But if trades unions are deserving of censure for "restricting output," why does President Eliot so carefully refrain from denounc-

ing other organizations for doing the same thing? Let prices fall and business stagnate as a result, and immediately men like President Eliot inform us that "overproduction" is the cause—that the more we produce from nature the poorer we are. If manufacturers practice "restriction of output" and are held blameless by President Eliot, why should he not hold trades unions blameless for practicing the same thing. The logic of some of our learned educators is extremely difficult to follow. The statement that the more we produce from nature the less nature gives us, is so complex that the average man is not to be blamed for his failure to understand it, and yet that is just what university presidents, manufacturers and lawmakers have been preaching to the public for a century or more.

President Roosevelt's vote in Missouri was only about 7,300 greater than the republican vote four years ago (the increase being less than the normal increase in the republican population) while the democratic vote was nearly 55,000 less than it was in 1900. The gain made by the populists and by the socialists did not equal the falling off in the democratic vote. Many democrats stayed at home; they ought not to have done so, but they will be out two years from now and four years from now, and then the republicans will have to take a back seat again. In the meantime Governor Folk will be at Jefferson City to prevent the republicans from carrying off the state.

## The Vote In Missouri

It is sometimes difficult to keep track of President Roosevelt's intentions. When he intervened in the coal strike we were given to understand that he was actuated by the desire to relieve the coal famine. That he acknowledged the plaudits of the people who so believed would naturally lead one to believe that such was his motive. But a little later he called attention to the fact that his intervention went a long way towards preserving the mines to the coal trust, because his action prevented the movement for public ownership of those mines from becoming irresistible. The question now arises, did the president intervene in order to avert the coal famine, or did he intervene in order to save the mines to the coal trust?

## A Question of Motive Involved

The Journal of the American Medical Association says that the medical profession is gradually abandoning the idea that the cure of tuberculosis is dependent on climatic conditions. The Journal further declares that abundant food, fresh air and rest are the essentials of such a cure and that these may be applied practically in all climates. Consumption, "the white death," is being considered more and more by the medical profession, and anything calculated to lessen its ravages will be hailed with joy. The men who are devoting their lives to the study of the dread disease and seeking to find a cure, are more deserving of medals and monuments than those whose chief desire is to acquire territory and power by sword and musket.

Recently two employes of the postal department were summarily dismissed by the president's order on the ground that they had sought improperly to influence congressmen in the behalf of postal employes. One need go back into history only a few brief years to find an incident which clearly shows that the dismissed employes made a mistake in their tactics. They should have joined with their fellow employes in signing a "round robin." We recall that something like six years ago a subordinate officer of the United States army, a lieutenant colonel, we believe, sought to influence not only congress but the war department and the general public, by participating in a "round robin." The dismissed postal employes thought they were working to right a wrong. The lieutenant colonel referred to doubtless thought the same thing when he attached his name to the "round robin." We do not recall that the lieutenant colonel was marily bounced for his impudence and temerity. On the contrary, we believe he has since had two promotions, the first to be a colonel, and the second to be commander in chief of the army and navy.

**Took The Wrong Course Evidently**

Having selected Mr. Morton, the railroad man, to assist him in preventing the practice of freight rebates, the president should now select Mr. Gates or Mr. Morgan to assist in the work of preventing stock speculations.