

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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

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

If Mr. Lawson's charges are untrue, they certainly can be disproved.

Census returns of the incinerated Santa Claus are beginning to come in.

Dr. Lyman Abbott says he is the victim of the careless reporter. Dr. Abbott is not lonesome.

The year of 1904 has passed into history, and still the Smoot investigation has not reached Smoot.

About the finest collection of fairy tales imaginable would be a lot of those G. O. P. promises about revising the tariff.

General Wood says the Filipino soldiers become lazy on the American ration. Well, that is better than becoming too gay.

Strange that those eminent "captains of industry" have not tried the injunction method of keeping that Boston man quiet.

Mrs. Chadwick says she will tell her story just as soon as she pays off her obligations. It is to be hoped that she will not tell it until then.

The Topeka Herald says that "six months ago Thomas Lawson had never been heard of west of the Hudson river." Perhaps not—in the Herald office.

In the meantime, while northern newspapers are denouncing him, Governor Vardamann is showing Indiana and Ohio how to handle "whitecappers."

Sir Howard Vincent, M. P., of England, asks us to omit the third stanza of "Star Spangled Banner." Most of us omit a portion of every verse when we try to sing that song.

The Columbus Press-Post moves, and The Commoner seconds the motion, that Lawson get after the coal trust right now and let the copper trust go until warm weather comes.

Mr. Lawson says that attempts have been made to "dope" his food. But it may be that the trust managers merely deceived him by selling his steward some unadulterated groceries.

Commissioner Garfield recommends a federal license for inter-state corporations, evidently overlooking the fact that they already have federal permission to do just about as they please.

The Crete (Nebr.) Democrat has entered upon the thirty-first year of its battle for democratic principles, and Editor Bowlby feels amply able to keep up the Democrat's high average for another thirty years.

Coach Yost of the Michigan university football team has been engaged for five years at an annual salary of \$3,500. This is calculated to make the mere professor sit up and take notice of the higher education.

The Commoner.

Opponents of football have not yet pointed out the fact that the football coach who works about two months in the year usually gets about 100 per cent more salary than the professor who digs away the year 'round.

The Cincinnati Enquirer says it is no longer a democratic newspaper. If that statement is a sample of the character of its news the wonder is that it ever was called a newspaper. The statement is not news—it is history.

The president is waxing very wroth over the smoke nuisance in Washington. People outside of Washington have been enduring worse nuisances than smoke for some time, but so far there has been no executive effort to shackle.

The Kansas City Star complains that the "solid plutocracy" is after Missouri. This is rather a strange complaint, coming as it does from a newspaper that has been doing its best to fasten that sort of thing upon the whole nation.

The senate has adopted a bill guaranteeing the interest on \$30,000,000 of bonds to encourage railway building in the Philippines. Instead of guaranteeing interest for the benefit of "frenzied financiers" the senate should exhibit some interest in the welfare of the general public.

Thirty-seven bank failures and ten suicides on account thereof is the record Iowa made in 1903-04. But Iowa is so overwhelmingly republican anyhow that the G. O. P. managers doubtless thought it not necessary to send the Hawkeye state a proportionate share of the "prosperity."

Noting the fact that a big circus is to be sold at auction the Washington Post suggests that the government bid it in and use it to entertain the country while congress is not in session. The suggestion will arouse a storm of opposition. Twelve months of uninterrupted circus is entirely too much.

Countess de Carmara of Havana sued General Brooks for \$250,000 because he abolished the monopoly of slaughtering cattle and hogs in Havana, which had been hereditary in her family. Perhaps the attorney general fears to tackle the beef monopoly in this country because it might sue him for damages.

The Charlestown News and Courier wants to know why Governor Peabody doesn't deport the democratic majority and be done with it. The reason is very simple. The salaries of the two republican members of the Colorado supreme court are small compared with the cost of keeping the militia in the field.

It is reported through the press that Governor-elect Deneen of Illinois is going to make the passage of a primary election law one of the principal features of his administration. Good for Deneen! The honest selection of candidates satisfactory to the voters of the party is the first step toward good government and Illinois' new governor could not give better proof of his reform tendencies.

Elsewhere in this issue may be found a portion of Mr. Lawson's latest contribution to Everybody's Magazine on the subject of "Frenzied Finance." The quotation concerns a transaction during the latter days of the campaign of 1896, and makes very interesting reading. Mr. Lawson tells with a wealth of detail, and yet with commendable brevity under the circumstances, of the raising of a large sum of money a week before the campaign closed, to be used by the republican national committee in "saving" a number of doubtful states. The attention of The Commoner's readers is called to the extract from Mr. Lawson's magazine article.

The Chicago Tribune having declared that "if there is anything improper connected with the collection and distribution of the national campaign fund it should be exposed," the Florida Times-Union and Citizen pertinently adds: "But, of course, the investigation of each campaign fund should be 'made by its friends.'" The remark of our Florida contemporary has a wonderfully familiar sound. The tariff should be revised by its friends, the trusts should be superintended by

their friends, the railroads should be controlled by friends of railroad monopoly—that is the familiar cry that greets every effort to control these great interests in behalf of the welfare of the whole people.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, doubtless having a better knowledge of the intelligence of its readers than anybody else could have, asserts that the recent order of a western railroad for one hundred new locomotives would not have been given if Parker had been elected. Western railroads, known in stock market quotations as "grangers," depend largely upon the grain and cattle haul for their revenues. According to the Globe-Democrat the wheat would refuse to head out, corn would refuse to silk, oats would lodge, alfalfa would rot, barley succumb to rust, rye refuse to ripen, steers refuse to fatten and hogs refuse to grow unless a republican were elected president. The Globe-Democrat's readers may believe that sort of thing. As remarked in the beginning, doubtless the Globe-Democrat has a better knowledge of the intelligence of its readers than the mere outsider could possibly have.

The public is indebted to the Boston Globe for an explanation of what coal really is. "Coal," says the Globe, "is a stratified mineral varying in color from dark brown to black, and, according to geologists, is the result of the transformation of organic matter and is distinguished by its fossil origin from charcoal, which is obtained by the direct carbonization of wood." In view of existing conditions The Commoner suggests to its readers that they preserve this explanation. It seems probable that after a few years more of coal trust existence the average family will have nothing more substantial in the way of coal than this clear and lucid explanation.

A few months ago the cotton mill owners of Fall River reduced the wages of their employes even below the starvation point, offering as a reason that the high price of cotton made it imperative that expenses be reduced. The reduction was the second or third within the year, and left the average wage in the immediate neighborhood of \$6 a week. The employes in sheer desperation struck against the reduction, and so far have remained firm. Today cotton is cheaper than usual, but the mill owners have not seen fit to offer a higher wage because of that fact. This is a matter that tends to explode the hollowness of the claim made by the grasping employers at Fall River.

Mississippi has taken hold of the "whitecappers" in a manner that commends that state to the attention of several northern states similarly afflicted. "Whitecappers" have a way of taking matters into their own hands and whipping people who have become obnoxious to them. "Whitecappers" in Lincoln county, Miss., have been somewhat discouraged by the action of Governor Vardemann and the courts, and "whitecapping" will probably not be indulged in soon again in that section. Ten citizens of Lincoln county have just begun penitentiary sentences ranging from ten to fifty years for indulging in the pastime of whipping men. Recent events in a couple of northern states indicate that the same drastic treatment is needed on this side of the more or less famous Mason and Dixon line.

Governor Folk of Missouri and Governor Johnson of Minnesota are newly elected reform governors. Governor LaFollette of Wisconsin has already proven himself an anti-monopolist and Governor Cummins of Iowa has shown reform symptoms, although the attacks have been somewhat intermittent. Now that Governor Deneen of Illinois seems disposed to cast his influence with reformers, it might be well for these five to call a conference of the governors of the Northern Mississippi valley to take action upon legislation affecting corporations. They might bring over the governors of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and these eight great agricultural states of the middle west would have a powerful influence if thrown in favor of anti-trust legislation, tariff reform and railroad regulation.