

# The Commoner.

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Are you real sure that none of your insurance premiums went into that wheat deal?

The dodging ability of the Russian fleet is adding largely to our geographical nomenclature.

Can it be possible that Togo and Rojestvensky have met with the horrible Kilkenny cat fight result.

President Roosevelt's hurry to get home indicates that Secretary Taft is growing wobbly on the lid.

Perhaps those "Love Letters of a Political Boss" did not contain the usual postscript, "B—T—L—."

It would seem that Rojestvensky's vessels are sadly hampered in their movements by their consonants.

A large number of prominent citizens are now in the "also mentioned" class for president of the Equitable.

Mr. Bigelow was one of the eminent gentlemen who in 1896 was very jealous of "national honor and integrity."

The difference between the presidential hunting of Wall street and Colorado bears is that he got the Colorado bears.

There are a great many men who are not so fortunate as to be able to go bear hunting in Colorado about housecleaning time.

The trust question could be closed with considerable rapidity by opening the penitentiary doors to some of the criminal trust managers.

Of course a number of Wisconsin legislators who voted for the anti-tip bill will be able to convince themselves that a railroad pass is not a tip.

The New York Press wants to know how lobbyists may be kept out of the legislature. The election of the right kind of a legislature might help to answer the question.

The *Commoner* points with pride to its hundreds of "assistant editors" who have been on duty for several weeks and promise to keep on doing duty for about 200 weeks to come.

The discovery of Paul Jones' body lends color to the belief that it is yet possible for the republican leaders to find and resurrect the reciprocity principles of James G. Blaine and William McKinley.

The result of Mr. Cleveland's article on women's clubs must remind him forcibly of the muss he stirred up when he tried to sell those bonds to Mr. Morgan on a very private and profitable basis.

The senator-elect from Missouri says his election cost him, \$28.70, and the senator-elect from Tennessee says his election cost him \$11.50. There are senators whose elections cost vastly more who are worth infinitely less.

Ex-Senator Thurston has been retained to defend Senator Mitchell. Doubtless Senator Mitchell will find his attorney much more loyal to his interests than that attorney was to his constituents when he was senator from Nebraska.

If our European neighbors have any bills against South American republics they should hasten to collect. The time is rapidly coming when this country will no longer be a bad debt collection agency with "big stick" and press agent attachments.

The Duke of Manchester takes as personal Mr. Carnegie's remarks concerning dukes and coachmen. But what grounds has the duke for complaint? The wonder is that the coachmen have not objected to being mentioned in connection therewith.

A St. Paul republican daily has purchased the subscription list of the defunct St. Paul Globe, a paper that claimed to be democratic. The Globe's old subscribers who read the republican paper will have great difficulty in seeing any difference in editorial utterances and policies.

A Minnesota man is trying to prove that a jack rabbit is speedier than a locomotive. If the Minnesota gentleman is looking for speed let him take a glance at the rapidity with which the g. o. p. bosses get away from tariff revision immediately after election.

Mr. Rogers indignantly denies that Mr. Rockefeller was a member of the South Improvement company, and explains that it was the Southern Improvement company that he belonged to, the two companies having the same object. This recalls the plea of the small boy. "I didn't steal no jell tarts; 'twas the gooseberry pie I stole."

Many organs opposed to interfering with the rapacity of the railroads and other corporations are worrying over what might happen if the employes of a government owned road should strike. Just as soon as we hear of postal clerks, department clerks, postmasters and army officers striking we'll begin worrying a little. Did any one ever hear of policemen or firemen going on strike?

The colored minister who was invited to pray for the New York legislature will not be invited again. He prayed that the Almighty would guide the assembly through life and bring the members safely to "that general assembly where Jesus Christ is the speaker and business transacted without graft or the dictation of a lobby." So many of the members took it as a personal reflection that they were too nervous to do business all the rest of the day.

Rev. Dr. Buckley, editor of the *Advocate*, an organ of the Methodist church, having asserted that he would take money for his hospital from any one who had a legal title to it, Rev. Charles Crane, pastor of the People's Temple, Boston, replies in a caustic vein by saying: "The editor of the leading Methodist advocate asserts that he will take money for his hospital from any one who has a legal title to it. Had he been one of the high priests or elders who spurned the thirty pieces of silver that Judas Iscariot tried to give to them he would have justified the acceptance of it on the ground that he should not inquire into the source from which the money came—which shows one difference between a modern Methodist and an ancient Jew." Rev. Mr. Crane, himself a leading minister of the Methodist church, seems to have given Rev. Dr. Buckley something to think about.

Secretary Morton declares that American freight rates are lower and wages of railroad employes higher in this country than in Europe, and from this premise reaches the conclusion that government regulation of freight rates is not needed and should not be allowed. Secretary Morton is not the only man who takes the wrong view of this question. It is not a question of whether the rates are lower in this country than in other countries, but whether they are higher than in

justice and right they should be. Another phase of the question is: Are the people entitled to assurance that some shippers are not being benefited at the expense of other shippers by corporations that are primarily chartered to give equal service to all the people? If the rates charged bring in more than enough revenue to pay operating expenses and reasonable interest on the money invested, then the rates charged are too high. If one set of shippers are being favored at the expense of another set of shippers, then the railroad is violating the spirit of the law under which it is chartered. But railroad rates that permit of large dividends on stock watered from 300 to 1,000 per cent are too high, no matter if they are lower than rates charged in other countries.

The Referendum club bureau of Washington city calls attention to the fact that the lower house of the Maine legislature voted 66 to 38 for an amendment to the constitution providing for the initiative and referendum. As it requires a two-thirds vote for the submission of such an amendment, it failed. In the senate the vote stood 13 to 13. In both houses all of the democrats favored the bill. This is a good sign. The initiative and the referendum do not displace representative government; they simply bring the government nearer to the people, and by perfecting representative government they rather strengthen than weaken it.

## GOOD WORK

Many *Commoner* readers are taking advantage of the special subscription offer with the result that *The Commoner's* circulation is increasing every week. The following are sample extracts from letters sent in by men who are assisting in enlarging *The Commoner's* sphere of influence by increasing its circulation:

John R. Bodie, St. Louis, Mo., writes: "Here-with find names of fifteen men who would like pay for same."

A New York reader writes: "Enclosed you will please find names of nineteen subscribers."

J. F. Walker, Belleville, Kans., writes: "Here-with, find names of fifteen men who would like *The Commoner* for one year at your 60 cent rate."

J. H. Houlton, Grady, Ala., sends seven subscriptions with money order to cover same.

J. E. Plattner, Mexico, Mo., writes: "I here-with send another batch of names for *The Commoner*, also remittance for the same. Hope to be able to add others as the days come and go."

W. H. Burke, M. D., Weleetka, I. T., writes: "Enclosed my check for \$10.80 in lieu of subscription for nineteen subscribers, procured in one hour in the 'wilds' of the Creek nation."

E. J. Fisk, Grand Forks, N. D., writes: "Enclosed find postoffice money orders for \$3.00 and \$5.40 to pay for fourteen subscriptions."

According to the terms of the special subscription offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to *The Commoner*, will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase *The Commoner's* circulation.

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5	Publisher <i>Commoner</i> ; I am interested in increasing <i>The Commoner's</i> circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold. Name _____ Box, or Street No. _____ P. O. _____ State _____ Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.
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If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to *The Commoner*, Lincoln, Neb.