

# 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 52c 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, '05, 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 primary pledge plan marks the way for the triumph of democratic principles. Have you signed?

It seems that Secretary Taft arose from the "lid" long enough to recline for a moment or two on the "standpatters."

The "standpatters" will doubtless call Secretary Taft to one side and whisper strenuous thoughts into his ears.

In New York a man may be imprisoned for debt—if he hasn't enough money to take advantage of the bankruptcy laws.

President Fish bristles up on the rate regulation question in a manner that bears a wonderful resemblance to the antics of President Castro.

It seems that the gentlemen who are satisfied with the present system of freight charges are gentlemen who have no freight charges to pay.

The June dividend of the Standard Oil company will be 6 per cent less than the June dividend a year ago. This is calculated to make Kansas look pleasant.

It will be real mean in Uncle Sam if he refuses to let his nephews take advantage of the market that he insists upon looking up for his own use.

Volume Four of **The Commoner Condensed** will be ready for delivery June 10. If you have not already ordered do so now and receive early copies.

Orthography seems to be the matter with Philadelphia. While the public was praying for the administration the city administration was preying for itself.

If necessary, Secretary Taft can quote a few sentences from "Life and Times of Thomas H. Benton," by Roosevelt, as authority for his Panama tariff announcement.

The treasury deficit for April was \$9,000,000. This is about \$18,000,000 more than Secretary Gage told us a few months ago it would be. The secretary should quit guessing and go to figuring.

The president again announces his determination not to be a candidate in 1908. He will find it convenient to reiterate the statement frequently when the railroad magnates attempt to threaten him.

Mr. Rockefeller expresses his surprise at Dr. Gladden. He says that he knows many ministers who are just and generous. That is more than those ministers can say of the trust magnates whom they know.

After reading the controversy between Norman E. Hapgood, editor of *Collier's Weekly*, and Thomas W. Lawson, the general public will rise as one man and advise Mr. Hapgood to get a reputation before again entering the ring with the strenuous Bostonian.

# The Commoner.

The president's cabinet seems to have been selected by the trusts as a proper training ground for their chief attorneys.

The General Paper company has refused to submit its books to the inspection of the government's agents. This is strange, in view of the fact that the company has plenty of paper from which to manufacture books to suit.

President Fish of the Illinois Central railroad, replying to Secretary Taft, said that what was needed was not more legislation but the enforcement of the laws we now have. What if the president reads a report of that speech?

The pacification of 400 or 500 Jolos was completed last week. This brings us 400 or 500 nearer eventual peace in those wonderfully rich new possessions thrown into our lap by providence upon the payment of \$20,000,000 to Spain.

Defaulter Smith of San Francisco says: "I never took anything which would affect people who were not able to stand the loss." That sounds very much like a plea in abatement made by a religious society charged with accepting money dishonestly obtained by the donor.

The Kenton Press, which is always loyal to democratic principles, warns the democrats of Ohio that they can not hope to win in that state unless they nominate candidates who are known to be democratic through and through. Half-way democrats do not excite confidence.

The Chicago American, discussing the Equitable Life Insurance muddle says: "Perhaps government life insurance—honest life insurance—will come out of this muddle." It requires a serious lesson to teach the average man the importance of a reform and the disclosures in the Equitable fight have been good object lessons.

The Milwaukee Sentinel says "Mr. Bryan is advising the Ohio democrats whom to nominate for governor." The Sentinel is seemingly always wrong from choice. Mr. Bryan is not advising Ohio democrats, nor the democrats of any other state, whom to nominate for governor.

The Indianapolis Morning Star has an editorial entitled "Mr. Bryan Half Right." It is a great concession for the Star to make and is duly appreciated. The Star refers to Mr. Bryan's argument on the trust question in which he insists that competition should be protected wherever competition is possible.

A reader of **The Commoner** calls attention to the statement made by Director of the Mint Roberts to the effect that the silver dollar was worth more than the gold dollar when it was demonetized. That is true, and it is because the silver dollar, being at a premium, was not the money in everyday use and could be demonetized without attracting immediate attention. Whatever may have been the purpose of those who passed the law of 1873, it is not true that the public intended to demonetize silver or understood the effect of the law. The financiers, however, knew it and planned the attack upon silver in secret—as the financiers usually plan monetary legislation.

As the facts are brought out by the investigation of the Bigelow defalcation it is found that speculation was only one of his sins. He went into nearly every kind of industrial enterprise and was extravagant in his living expenses and generous in his donations. He used trust money of every description, not sparing his aged relatives by blood and marriage, his victims including widows and orphans. His exposure shows him to have led a dual life for some years, posing as a business man of integrity and experience, attending important gatherings and assisting in the formation of public opinion, while at the same time he was engaged in covering up his enormous stealings.

James J. Hill, railroad magnate, said before the senate committee on interstate commerce that every railroad officer should be disqualified from enjoying any production of traffic on the line where he was on the pay roll, because of the temptation to favor the company in which he was interested.

This is a sound position, and if the law was strictly enforced it would remove a great deal of the temptation to which railroad magnates have yielded and, in yielding to which, have discriminated against persons and places.

The Boston Herald says that Judge Robert B. Frazier of Detroit has become somewhat conspicuous by reason of what the Detroit Free Press calls "his remarkable oddity." This "oddity" consists in "declining to take advantage of legal technicalities in a judicial recount of votes, which would have enabled him to retain his seat upon the circuit bench." The judge insists upon respecting the disclosed intent of the voter rather than accept the office upon a technicality which would vitiate the will of the voter. It is a sad commentary upon the times when an honest man becomes a "remarkable oddity," or when the refusal to override the will of the people is considered a mark of unusual virtue. A healthy public sentiment should brand a man as a scoundrel who would take advantage of a mere technicality when that technicality would thwart the known will of the voters.

The Dallas News scents danger in the ownership of the Panama railroad. It quotes Secretary Taft as saying that the railroad will be run with an eye single to paying expenses and giving the government a fair return on its investment. The News adds: "The Bryan people who believe in the public ownership of such things as railroads will at once ask: 'If the government can own a railroad across the isthmus mentioned and three steamships plying between a Panama and a United States port, why can it not own a railroad at home?' Yes, that does seem a very natural question, and how will the republicans answer it?"

### EVERYONE MAY HELP

A Kansas City reader writes: "I am glad to be able to send **The Commoner** the enclosed list of ten subscribers, and money order for \$6 to pay for the same."

Eugene Summerville, Grafton, W. Va., sends club of nine subscribers.

B. Depue, Wellington, W. Va., sends club of ten subscribers.

A New York city reader writes: "Herewith find list of fifteen subscribers to **The Commoner**."

These are samples of letters received every day at **The Commoner** office. These letters are written by men who are taking advantage of the special subscription offer to help in the work of widening **The Commoner's** sphere of influence.

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.

**THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER**

Application for Subscription Cards

5	Publisher Commoner; I am interested in increasing <b>The Commoner's</b> 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.
10	
15	
20	
25	
50	
75	
100	

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.**