

## The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

### GOING ABROAD

Mr. Bryan is contemplating a trip abroad for the investigation of economic and industrial questions. Mrs. Bryan and two younger children will accompany him. A number of countries will be visited. The Commoner will publish a series of letters written by Mr. Bryan, setting forth the results of his inquiries. The trip will begin about the middle of September.

Organization precedes victory.

Messrs. Loomis and Bowen should get down to the concrete facts of that asphalt deal.

The construction of the Panama canal has progressed to the increase-of-salary stage.

Have you resigned from the Equitable directorate yet? If not you are behind the times.

The Philadelphia case discloses what the people can do to the grafters by trying in real earnest.

King Alfonso, of Spain, is making a tour of neighboring countries. His near relatives have told him all about the United States.

Some eminent sailors at Washington, who have seldom been to sea, can no longer understand how Togo managed to win so handily without a naval board of strategy.

Secretary Shaw says he is going to reduce the deficit by cutting down the incidental expenses. All right, but let him look carefully after the "accidental" expense.

The eminent gentlemen who have accumulated millions by tariff favor are unreliably informed that those who have paid the most of it are still in favor of continuing it.

Secretary Taft's little trick of alienating Secretary Shaw's newspaper party reminds us more or less of what Sherman said about Alger's cornering some colored southern delegates.

The United States court at Cincinnati has declared the wall paper trust to be an illegal combine. It is to be hoped that the court will be able to make the decision stick better than the wall paper usually does.

The four New York highwaymen who held up a bank messenger have been convicted and sent to Sing Sing. This should be a warning. It would have been far safer and doubtless more profitable to start a bank.

President Roosevelt has not yet visited Florida and Arkansas, and announces his intention to do so as soon as possible. Up to date the president has not been able to penetrate very far into railroad regulation territory, either.

The appointment of a Bonaparte to the cabinet reminds us that the people do not want any Moscow fiasco in this campaign against illegal rebates and extortionate freight charges.

Pert paragraphs who have found Philadelphia a fruitful source of "sleepy" jokes will have to look elsewhere now. How about the "stand-patters" who can hear no demands for tariff revision?

The theatrical company organized to exploit Nan Patterson has scored a dismal financial failure. Occasionally the public manages to do the right thing without making any particular fuss about it.

The czar says he would rather die than sign an ignominious peace. But if he doesn't sign a peace pact of some kind several hundred thousand other Russians will die. If the czar really loves his "little children" now is the time for him to show it.

It remains to be seen whether a naval board of strategy will try to wrest the laurels from Togo's brow. The indications are, however, that the Japs are not yet sufficiently civilized to engage in that sort of thing.

The primary pledge plan of organization is proving immensely popular. Pledges are coming in by hundreds every day and from all sections of the country. Sign a pledge and send it in at once, and then see that your neighbor does likewise.

President Roosevelt should invite his cabinet to get together. One denounces the idea of protected manufacturers selling their wares cheaper to foreigners than to residents, and another defends it as a sound business policy. Here is an opportunity to do considerable work in the line of pacification.

Letters from various sections of the country leave no doubt that the railroads have commenced a systematic effort to coerce the country editors into opposing railroad rate legislation, or at least into silence regarding the matter. From the number of letters received at The Commoner office it is evident that not all of the editors will be coerced. Notice is called to the matter in The Commoner in order that the editors who are approached may know that others are being likewise tempted.

Trying to throttle The

As an evidence of the fight that the railroads are preparing to put up against the railroad rate regulation, attention is called to the fact that some of the railroads are addressing letters to country editors asking for "a concise opinion" on the subject of railroad rate regulation especially, whether the papers addressed are in favor of it or not. The railroads have an organization already perfected and are prepared to reach the entire public. It is necessary for the people to encourage their representatives. Every reader of The Commoner should make his position known to his representative.

One may find humor in the most unexpected places. It may be found in such an uninteresting thing as a railroad tariff sheet. For instance, although Kearney, Neb., is 200 miles nearer the Rock Springs coal mines than Omaha, Omaha people pay less for Rock Springs coal than the people of Kearney have to pay for the same kind of coal. The tariff sheet's explanation is that Omaha is affected by water rate competition, being on the Missouri river. The humor lies in the fact that all the freight brought into Omaha by the river route during the last dozen years could be put in a gnat's eye without making the insect blink. It is that sort of "competition" that is robbing the consuming public.

When the California decision was first rendered invalidating the law providing for the recall of a public officer it was reported that it declared against the constitutionality of the principle of the recall. The Citizen Bulletin, however, in reporting the decision says that it turned on the fact that a technical error of the city clerk invalidated the election. It seems that while the lower court decided that the recall was unconstitutional, the higher court decided the case on the technical error rather than upon the principle. Certainly there can be no valid constitutional objection raised to a law which protects the voter in his right to have the services of an honest representative. To hold that a man's right to a salary is higher than the people's right to be represented would be an absurdity.

People's Rights Supreme

The platform adopted by the republicans in Ohio is very much like the platform adopted by the republicans in the nation last fall. The delegates to the Ohio convention instead of declaring for any particular legislation on the rate question contented themselves, after endorsing the effort to enforce existing laws, with a declaration in favor of such further legislation as may "after full investigation seem to the republican congress and administration wise and conservative," etc. They put the responsibility on the republican congress and president, and endorse in advance anything which they may do. This is a complacent way of avoiding the question.

Avoiding The Question

Hon. L. A. Rosing, of Minnesota is interesting himself in the establishment of the Minnesota Municipal and Commercial League, with subordinate branches in the various cities and towns. Its purpose is, as its name implies, to advance the interests of the various cities in municipal and commercial matters. The League devotes itself to the questions which concern the improvement of city government and the securing of equitable transportation rates and facilities. There ought to be such a league in every state. Those desiring information in regard to the Minnesota League can communicate with Mr. Rosing in care of the governor's office at St. Paul.

### CONTINUES TO GROW

The Commoner's circulation continues to grow and much of the increase is due to the generous effort of Commoner readers, who have taken advantage of the special subscription offer to place The Commoner in the homes of some of their neighbors. If every Commoner reader who approves of the work which this paper is doing would undertake to secure five subscribers on the "Lot of Five" plan, The Commoner would be persuaded to unite with the democracy.

Following are a few samples showing the popularity of the special subscription offer:

Enos Gray, Casselton, N. D., sends fifteen new subscribers for The Commoner at club rates, five for \$3.00.

James Whittington, Raymond City, W. Va., sends club of ten subscribers to The Commoner at clubbing rates.

A New York City reader sends list of thirteen new subscribers and says it is only a matter of finding time to go and see loyal democrats to get their subscriptions to The Commoner.

T. B. Snider, Bardwell, Ky., sends list of thirty-six subscribers to The Commoner at clubbing rates.

E. T. Payne, Quinton, I. T., sends list of eighteen subscribers at clubbing rates.

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 household, 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 The Commoner's 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.		