

# The Commoner.

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### A CHANGE OF SENTIMENT

On another page will be found extracts from a paper read before the Round Table club of Lincoln, Neb., recently by Hon. H. M. Bushnell. The subject under discussion was the proposed increase of power for the interstate commerce commission, and reference is made to this paper and to the discussion that followed it because they show the growth of sentiment in favor of railroad regulation. Mr. Bushnell was but a few years ago postmaster at Lincoln, and is now one of the prominent republicans of the state. The Round Table is composed of the most prominent business and professional men of the city, a considerable majority of whom are republicans. During the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Bushnell's paper, it developed that all of the members of the Round Table were in favor of legislation giving the interstate commerce commission power to determine and to enforce a reasonable freight rate, some favoring power to decide upon complaint and others believing that the power should be so complete as to permit the commission to act upon its own initiative. The fact that such representative men of the city of Lincoln should be unanimous in support of railroad regulation is an evidence of the growth of public sentiment in this direction.

### DUNNE AGAINST GAMBLING

Mayor Dunne, of Chicago, deserves credit for the progress he has made in his crusade against gambling. One of the most important steps was the driving of dice games from the hotel cigar stands. No traveler has failed to notice the crowd of young men lured into these games by the hope of a lucky throw. These games are made still more attractive by the fact that pretty girls often preside over the game and entertain the patrons. No line can be drawn between games of chance. The making of money by a turn of a card or by a throw of the dice is demoralizing and it is easier to stop it when the playing is for small sums or for merchandise than to curb it after the moral sense has been blunted and the passion for gambling has taken a firm hold on its victims. The ministers might assist by pointing out the responsibility assumed by the girls who place this temptation before young men.

### WHO PAYS?

Speaking of the abolition of retaliatory duties by the czar the Omaha Bee (republican) says: "Thus is the peacemaker blessed and Russians permitted to secure better goods for less money than in any other market on earth." That sounds very much as if the consumer paid the tariff.



"AS LIKE AS TWO PEAS"

## THE REAL REASON

Mr. McCall says that he thanks God that by contributing to the republican party he helped to save the country from Free Silver. If the testimony proves anything it proves that the insurance magnates were more afraid of criminal prosecution than they were of Free Silver. They knew they were guilty of fraud, bribery of Legislatures, corruption of politics and misuse of trust funds and they felt safer under a republican administration.

## STAND BY THE PEOPLE

### AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

To President Roosevelt: Permit a parting word. You have the contest of your life before you and I desire to render you all the assistance in my power. You have asked congress to enact a law so enlarging the powers of the interstate commerce commission as to permit it to fix and enforce a reasonable freight rate, and the railroad lobby was strong enough to stop in the senate the bill passed by the house. The railroad magnates expect to block the passage of the bill again. The National City Bank of New York has advised its patrons that no rate legislation is probable; the

railroads have been at work all summer circulating literature against railroad regulation, and the senate contains a number of members so intimately connected with railroad interests that they can not be expected to take the peoples' side. The railroads will try to persuade you; if they fail in this they will try to scare you; if they fail in this also they will try to defeat your recommendation. It will embarrass you to have strong party leaders against you; you may even be embarrassed by having so many democrats co-operating with you, but you must reconcile yourself to both. In this fight your