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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

#### MR. BRYAN ABROAD

Mr. Bryan, accompanied by Mrs. Bryan, William J., Jr., and their younger daughter, Grace, left Lincoln September 21 for a tour around the world. They took passage on the Pacific Mail steamship Manchuria, which sailed from San Francisco September 27.

They go to Japan via Honolulu. After a few weeks in Japan they will proceed to China, the Philippine Islands, India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Holland and the British Isles.

The trip will occupy about one year, and the readers of The Commoner will be able to follow Mr. Bryan from the letters which will be published in The Commoner from time to time.

In the meantime, push the primary pledge and organize.

It is believed that King Corn has passed the wire a good winner over Jack Frost.

There are no violators of the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law in jail yet.

Perhaps Mr. Rockefeller invested in a wig because he believed there was room at the top.

Chairman Shonts shows signs of a desire to wrest the cussing championship from Admiral Evans.

The canal commission is spending \$650,000 a month and is not digging that many spoonfuls of dirt.

The beef trust is not yet ready for trial. It must have located a few dollars it has not yet secured.

The pass may not be a bribe but—well the republican officials in Nebraska are returning theirs anyhow.

The Fairbanks presidential boom has moved again. It has shoved over to make room for the summer straw hat.

Some of these splendid defenders of "national honor" in 1896 should have reserved a little defense for personal use. They need it.

If the democratic party takes good care that it shall deserve to win in 1908 the matter of a candidate is one that will settle itself.

The Equitable is not quite so lonesome as it was a few months ago. There is plenty of company for it in the prisoner's dock now.

The beef trust says it will be ready for trial "soon." That is when Mr. Hyde will return and when the republicans will revise the tariff.

The isthmian canal commission gives signs of exhausting all of its money and all of the country's patience in its amusement enterprises.

## The Commoner.

The canal commission might lend a little encouragement by throwing an occasional shovelful of dirt between decisions for new hotels and pleasure resorts.

The Standard Oil company has just raised the price of refined oil a half cent per gallon, which should be good news to Dr. Harper of Chicago University.

It may be true that no man can serve two masters, but Mr. Perkins has given a splendid imitation of a man who does it well enough to draw two fat salaries.

It cost the government \$40,000,000 last year to have the mails transported by the railroads. Now perhaps you can see why the railroads take such an interest in politics.

The American board of foreign missions has decided to table all resolutions against "tainted money." Mr. Rockefeller is exceedingly dense if he fails to take the hint.

The insurance scandal calls renewed attention to the fact that there is a vast difference between drawing a salary of \$75,000 a year and earning a salary of \$75,000 a year.

Congressman Brownlow is working to make the highways good, and President Roosevelt is working to make the railroads good—and up to date both movements have made equal progress.

Senator Lodge says he wants it understood that he does not reflect the president's views when he advocates a ship subsidy. Neither does he reflect the views of 99.99 per cent of the people of the country.

Every day's testimony in the insurance company investigation reveals another reason why the insurance grafters so roundly denounced Lawson as a humbug and an adventurer when he first began his story of "Amalgamated."

Get out your atlas and look up Baku. Trouble over there means trouble here, for Baku furnishes half the world's supply of crude petroleum and you know what that means just as soon as Mr. Rockefeller gets ready to move.

Mr. Morton of the Equitable says he wants his agents to get business, but not by rate cutting and high-risk methods. Does he mean this as an intimation that they can work the rebate game that Mr. Morton worked while with the Santa Fe?

When Thomas W. Lawson began his revelations in the gigantic game of loot and graft he intimated that there was something radically wrong with the big insurance companies. Immediately the managers of these companies charged Lawson with seeking to precipitate a panic, and declared that he was an adventurer, or worse. In addition they declared with renewed energy their own honesty. Mr. Lawson reiterated his charges and presented enough evidence to warrant an investigation. The investigation is hardly begun, and already developments reveal that Mr. Lawson not only had ample warrant for his charges, but that he did not give even a hint of the corruption that prevails. Now that the investigation is started let it be thorough and complete, and let the men who have gambled and speculated in trust funds be brought to book.

The scandal in the government printing office calls renewed attention to the immense waste of public money in that institution. Thousands of tons of useless publications are issued from that office every year, and the only purpose they seem to serve is to increase the remuneration the railroads receive for carrying the mails. Every time the mails are weighed for the purpose of furnishing a basis from which to figure what the railroads shall receive for transporting them, the mail cars are loaded down with "Pub. Doc's." that are weighed and re-weighed all along the line. Tons of such matter are carried during the weighing season, and then the government pays on that basis for the ensuing two or four years. Millions of dollars are wasted in printing these useless books, and other millions are worse than wasted—actually stolen—by mailing them out during the mail weighing season and then paying

the railroads for them every day in the year for years to come. The purchase of the typesetting machines is not the only crooked deal worked under cover of the government printing office.

The syndicates working inside of the big insurance companies is only another phase of the game so long worked by the railroads under guise of "fast freight" lines. A number of directors of an insurance company organize a "syndicate" and purchase bonds of other syndicates. These bonds are then sold at a big profit to the insurance companies as an "investment" for the benefit of the policyholders. The same game is worked differently by the railroad companies. Railroad officials organize a "fast freight line" and rename a lot of cars belonging to the company. These cars are then loaded as specials and the railroad pays car mileage on its own cars to the "fast freight line." In this way earnings to the general stockholders are kept down, an excuse offered for the maintenance of exorbitant rates, and a few men on the inside pocket the proceeds.

#### CO-OPERATION

Annual subscriptions have been sent in by Commoner readers in number as follows: W. A. Crowe, Minnesota, Minn., 9; L. Brunner, Charity, Mo., 6; G. W. Hamlin, Rochelle, Ill., 5; Richard Allen, Oakland, Ill., 6; J. L. Aull, Belleville, Ill., 6; Daniel W. Singer, Goshen, Ind., 5; Nathan Groves, Drexel, Mo., 6; A. G. Ray, Butte, Mont., 10; J. W. Pickett, Kellis Store, Miss., 5; W. W. Chesley, Schaller, Iowa, 5; E. A. Watson, Longview, Texas, 5; S. M. Redfield, Maryville, Mo., 7; M. R. Hemphill, Valhalla, Mo., 7; George Knowles, Brooklyn, Mich., 6; E. W. Merz, Belleville, Ill., 5; W. T. Barnett, Terre Haute, Ind., 5; Thomas Harmeson, Clarks Hill, Ind., 5; Eugene Karst, St. Louis, Mo., 5; P. J. Noonan, Big Run, Pa., 5; George M. Shaffer, Independent, W. Va., 5; N. C. Crockett, Danner, Tex., 5; T. E. Glynn, So. La Grange, Me., 10; J. R. Couley, Cartersville, Ill., 6; F. A. Smith, Cedar Point, Kan., 5; E. E. Brossard, Columbus, Wis., 5; Dr. J. E. Hall, Pond Creek, Okla., 5; L. H. Read, Palmers Springs, Va., 5; W. D. Barnes, Seymour, Ind., 8; W. J. Cochran, Charleston, W. Va., 5; J. S. McSweeney, Oelwein, Iowa, 5; John S. McColley, Tipton, Ind., 5; A. T. Perry, Hamilton, Iowa, 5; E. D. Tull, Windsor, Ill., 6; Willis Walters, Mansfield, Ohio, 10; J. S. Bradley, Higbee, Mo., 5; A. F. Madison, Grand Forks, N. D., 5; D. B. Harris & Co., East Leake, Va., 6; N. F. Hilton, Oil City, Pa., 5; S. J. Isaack, Midland, Texas, 5; T. W. Everett, Guyandotte, W. Va., 5; A. J. Glenn, Macon, Mo., 6; F. M. Wilson, Utica, Pa., 5.

Every one who approves of the work The Commoner is doing is invited to co-operate along the lines of the special subscription offer. According to the terms of this 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.

Any one 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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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.	
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