

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

MR. BRYAN'S LETTERS

Mr. Bryan took passage on the Pacific Mail steamship Manchuria, which sailed from San Francisco September 27.

He will go to Japan via Honolulu. After a few weeks in Japan he 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.

Of course the gentleman who took \$150,000 from the Indiana state treasury was a "good fellow."

The amusement end of the Panama canal seems to be a long ways ahead of the industrial end thereof.

Does it not strike you that the republicans are taking undue interest in the democratic plans for the coming campaign?

Japan announces that she will maintain the open door in Korea, but intimates that the hinges will be kept properly oiled.

The Philadelphia North American is pounding the free pass distributors. Old Philly seems to be thoroughly awake now.

Mr. McCall was very much opposed to free silver but he was quite free in the use of all other kinds of money held by him as trustee.

The spectacle of Mr. Rockefeller walking barefoot in the dew emphasizes the fact that he always did demand more than his share of due.

When the beef trust gets ready to go to trial the people will have such a little bit left that they will take no interest in the outcome.

The Panama canal is costing \$650,000 a month, and not enough dirt is being moved to make a hole deep enough to hide the money.

Mr. Perkins of the New York Insurance company started in with that company at \$25 a month, and he has been earning about that much ever since.

After that pleasant call from his fellow citizens of Cleveland Mr. Rockefeller can not well decline to respond to the shake-down that is bound to follow.

In 1908 the gentlemen who stand up to talk about "preserving the national honor," will have to submit a certificate of character before their appeals will receive any considerable attention.

Mr. McCall thanks God that he helped to defeat the double standard and yet he used a double standard in keeping the books of his company—one set for the directors and one set for the public.

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In the future the gentlemen who make appeals for the preservation of the national honor would do well to burn the records.

E. Benjamin Andrews says there is a hostility against wealthy men. Mr. Andrews is mistaken. There is, however, considerable hostility against the use some wealthy men make of their money.

The New York World says that "the sound money cause is little helped by such advocates as John McCall." Quite true, but the World might have added a large number of names to the list.

President McCall "thanked God" for the part he had in the campaign of 1896. All the world is familiar with another gentleman of the same class who went up into the temple to pray and "thanked God that he was not as other men."

The Des Moines Capital talks of the difficulty of revising the tariff, but the Capital is wrong. Revision of the tariff would be easy. The difficult part is to secure the consent of the eminent captains of industry who profit hugely by reason of the present tariff.

"All industries have been protected except the ship owner," declared Senator Lodge recently. This will be interesting information to the farmers who are asked to believe that a tariff on wheat makes it yield a better price while the tariff on woolen goods decreases the price.

"Finally, brethren," says the Chicago Tribune, "you have been paying too much for your life insurance." No, we've been paying too much for what we thought was life insurance. It is just as well to be correct in speaking of these matters.

Up to date the printers have given a demonstration of how to conduct a strike without resorting to violence, and the indications are that they will keep it up. The printers fight with their brains—which will explain why they usually win.

Up to date the country has heard nothing from the White House concerning those campaign contributions. This is singular in view of the hot retort that came from the White House just about one year ago when the same subject was under consideration.

In the rush of business life, and amidst the disclosures of corruption in life insurance circles—matters well calculated to engross the public mind—let us not forget the heroic devotion and self-sacrifice of the physicians who are making such a gallant fight against yellow fever in New Orleans. It takes courage of a high order to face death in the guise in which it presents itself at New Orleans. The men who dare it are not enthused by the blare of bands, the ruffle of drums and the excitement of battle. They are moved only by a high sense of duty to the public. The country owes them an immense debt of gratitude, and certainly they should have a place among the heroes of earth.

The Heroism of Peace

The Corn Meal Era

The use of corn as human food is growing rapidly, and people are finding it beneficial in more ways than one. A western observer declares that inside of fifteen years corn will be selling bushel for bushel for as much as wheat. He argues that the corn belt is already practically fully developed, while the wheat area is constantly enlarging, and that with the restricted area and the increasing use, corn will soon be worth as much as wheat. The argument is an interesting one, but not nearly so interesting as the rapid growth in public favor of corn meal and its many uses. From the standpoint of health corn meal deserves to increase in favor, and from the standpoint of palatability it yields to no other article of common consumption.

The democrats of Hall county, Nebraska, have nominated George Poell for county clerk. Poell was "a fireman on the Union Pacific road until a few months ago. In attempting to save the life of a child playing on the track, Poell lost his right leg at the knee, being caught under his engine. His first words on recovering conscious-

ness after the accident were to inquire if the child had been hurt. It is related that the delegates did not know whether Poell was a democrat, republican or prohibitionist when they nominated him, and it is further related that they expressed themselves as not caring. They knew that Poell had made a great sacrifice to save a little child, and knew that he was competent to fill the office. That was all they cared to know. The Commoner has not yet learned Poell's politics, but that does not prevent it from expressing the hope that he will be elected by a practically unanimous vote. We have erected towering monuments to heroes of far less worth than George Poell, locomotive fireman.

President McCall of the New York Life talks loudly about his great interest in "national honor" and "preserving the national credit," but somehow or other, when his loud talk is taken in connection with the revelations of graft and loot in the big insurance companies, his loud shouting reminds us of a certain gentleman named Demetrius, who was a silversmith by profession in the days when the worship of Diana of the Ephesians was common. Demetrius was wonderfully excited when Paul preached and he called a hasty meeting of the "preservers" of Diana's honor. "We must stop this disturber," shouted Demetrius, "from overturning the worship of Diana—for by this craft we have our wealth." The secret of Demetrius' concern was that he made silver images of Diana, and Paul's mission was calculated to make the manufacture of images of Diana unprofitable. President McCall is exhibiting strong evidence of descent in a direct line from the well known image maker of Ephesus.

MISSOURI AND THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

In 1896 there were cast in Missouri 363,667 democratic votes. In 1904 the democratic vote amounted to 296,312—a loss in eight years of 67,355 votes. This does not mean that the number of Missouri democrats is decreasing—indeed, it is safe to assert that there are more real democrats in Missouri today than ever before in the history of that grand old state.

It is unnecessary to refer to the conditions that carried Missouri into the republican column in 1904. That is an old and familiar story by this time. But the fact remains that Missouri is strongly democratic and whenever the party is organized by the rank and file and the platform is written, and the candidates nominated in accordance with democratic principles, Missouri may be depended upon to roll up the old-time democratic majority.

Every democrat in Missouri may contribute materially in the effort to build up the democratic party and to increase the democratic vote in that state. In order that this work may be accomplished, it is necessary that every democrat take part in the primaries of his party. So far as Missouri is concerned, it is a good sign that in the number of primary pledges sent to The Commoner office, that state leads. And yet the Missouri field has not been, by any means, covered.

The Commoner desires to make a special appeal to every one of its readers in Missouri. If every Missouri reader of this paper will see to it that every democrat of his acquaintance signs the primary pledge himself and asks his own neighbor to do likewise, the field will be covered in a short time, and the results will tell in the democratic vote of the future. It would be well for several democrats in every county in Missouri to get together and circulate the primary pledge form in every precinct, obtaining the signature of every democrat who is willing to discharge this duty. This work of organization is not to terminate with a mere signing of the pledge. The interest of democrats once aroused is to be maintained. Clubs are to be organized in every county of the state and in every precinct of the county, these clubs having for their purpose the promulgation of democratic principles and the protection of the democratic creed from those who would destroy it.

The Commoner thanks and congratulates those Missouri democrats who have so thoroughly co-operated along the lines of the primary pledge, and now calls upon them to make renewed effort in this work of organizing the party. If every Missouri democrat who reads The Commoner will take new and active interest in this work, the next report from Missouri will prove very interesting reading to the democrats of the country.

If you are from Missouri, "Show us!"