

# The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

The Massachusetts republicans favor tariff revision—in the platform.

Very naturally Papa McCurdy protests against this thing of prying into "family affairs."

The McCurdys seem to have looked upon their insurance company as a family affair.

There are three pianos in the white house—and any number of mouth organs in the departments.

By the way, how are you satisfied with the guardianship that was established over "national honor?"

And just think that it was one little French slipped foot that kicked up all this muss in life insurance circles!

President McCall has a great deal of confidence in Mr. Hamilton, and the longer Mr. Hamilton remains abroad the greater grows Mr. McCall's confidence.

President McCurdy and his family have considerable evidence at hand to prove that they had very successfully mutualized the Mutual Life Insurance company.

Bishop Potter urges deferring judgment in the case of the insurance grafters. But, dear bishop, we have had a great plenty of this deferred dividend policy business.

Secretary Wilson guesses that meat prices will soon be reduced. The secretary should now go to guessing when the Panama canal will be completed. It is easier and more of a sure thing guess.

"Vote the republican ticket!" reads a campaign banner posted on a cemetery fence in Philadelphia. The cemetery vote in Philadelphia has been carrying the city for the republicans for several years.

One of the really amusing spectacles of today is that of the gentlemen who declared in 1896 that "there was plenty of money in the country" now throwing fits of joy over the "50 per cent increase" in the per capita circulation.

"Money getting is not all there is in the world," sighs Mr. Rockefeller. To be sure it is not. There is the little matter of getting the raw material first in the shape of oil lands, transportation companies and trust syndicates.

President Roosevelt is now seeking to eliminate brutality from football. Before reaching the end of his labors as regulator of the universe the president will have to eliminate abuse of the umpire and the profanity of the angler who suddenly finds himself out of bait three miles from the landing.

"Work hard, live within your income and look cheerful," is the advice of Banker Forson. And good advice it is, to be sure. It should be followed by the poor woman in the sweat shop who averages \$3 a week and has to support two or three little ones.

## The Commoner.

Honestly, now; are you really surprised at the revelations of graft and robbery in those big insurance and trust companies?

Mr. Baer may still claim to be a "trustee of Divine providence," but as the average man steps up and pays for a ton of anthracite he is apt to think that Mr. Baer has gone to the other extreme.

When the sideboard and buffet attachments to the regular army have been amputated perhaps the medical department can come within seeing distance of the medical department of the Japanese army.

One of the most convincing signs of approaching winter is that "carbolic acid smell" which greets you when you get on the windward side of your neighbor. Cloth always smells that way when the moth balls are shaken out.

"Evil associations corrupt good morals." Doubtless Biographer Brown was all right until he began studying Mr. Rockefeller's life for the purpose of writing about it, but he ended up by filching the products of another man's brain.

"The Philippines are quiet and contented under American rule." Is that not a familiar remark? But how long has it been since you saw the announcement of the fact that we have an army of 18,375 men over there where there is so much quiet and content?

The Washington Post calls to mind the fact that Al Adams, the "policy king" of New York, had to serve a term in the penitentiary for working crooked policy games. The Post's reminiscence is calculated to disturb the repose of some other eminent workers of crooked policy.

The eminent directors whose duty it is to decide what famous Americans are eligible to admittance in the "American Hall of Fame" have decided to leave Edgar Allan Poe on the outside. At any rate Poe failed to receive a sufficient number of votes to be admitted, while others of vastly less fame received a handsome majority. It may be that Poe will be admitted later. But until Edgar Allan Poe is represented by a tablet in the American Hall of Fame it will be incomplete. His name, and his works, too, will be familiar in America long after scores of others already admitted to the Hall of Fame have been forgotten by all save the janitors of that building.

Poe Does  
Not  
Need It

The "heads I win, tails you lose" game, the "three card monte" shark, the "thimble-rigger" and the man who manipulates the three shells and asks you to guess where the little ball lies—all of them could secure valuable pointers from the

eminent gentlemen who have been managing the big life insurance companies. These gentlemen used the money of the policyholders to speculate in bonds. If the speculation paid, the gentlemen paid their insurance companies a small interest for the use of the money, and pocketed the profits. If the speculation failed it was charged up to profit and loss on the books of the insurance companies. But let us be fair. The gentlemanly speculators managing the big insurance companies did sometimes pay their companies interest on the money borrowed for speculative purposes. They could have avoided paying the interest had they been so disposed.

But  
They Paid  
Interest

### WEST VIRGINIA AND THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

In the number of primary pledges returned to The Commoner office, West Virginia stands second. The democrats of West Virginia have done good work along the lines of the primary pledge plan, and The Commoner now asks those who have already helped to renew their efforts and invites those who have not so far participated to join in the work of organizing the party from the ground up.

Every West Virginia reader of The Commoner should ask every West Virginia democrat of his acquaintance to sign the primary pledge and call upon his own neighbor to do likewise. If a number of democrats of every West Virginia county would organize for the purpose of circulating the primary pledge form in every precinct, obtaining the signature of every democrat who is willing to discharge his duty to his party, the field would be covered in a short time, and the results would count. West Virginia democrats are reminded that this work of organiza-

tion is not to terminate with the 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 those West Virginia democrats who have faithfully co-operated with it, and takes this opportunity to urge them to renew their activities. Let us hear good reports from West Virginia.

### TAKE HOLD OF THE TOWLINE

Taking advantage of the special subscription offer Commoner readers have sent in yearly subscriptions in number as follows: Jacob Wasem, Lancaster, Ohio, 12; W. T. Wiley, Point Pleasant, W. Va., 6; W. H. Pelton, Canton, S. D., 8; J. M. Seawell, Erath, Tex., 8; Charles E. Atteberry, Urbana, Ill., 10; C. R. Whipple, Farlin, Mont., 8; T. J. Reynolds, Modesto, Ill., 7; J. K. Craford, Onawa, Iowa, 6; A. G. P. Dodge, Danville, Ill., 10; Lawrence Kieler, Jefferson, Ia., 6; M. Powers, Xenia, Ohio, 10; Philip Kelly, Santa Maria, Cal., 8; J. R. Churchill, Lima, Ohio, 10; J. R. De Laney, Cameron, Mo., 8; W. J. Eakin, Kennewick, Wash., 7; A. K. Espy, Mulkeytown, Ill., 8; Wm. R. Putnam, Wayville, N. Y., 7; Frank W. Gifford, Benton Sta., Maine 6.

The following subscribers have each sent five yearly subscriptions: Millard F. Osborn, New Canaan, Conn.; Frank Cogswell, Sunfield, Mich.; R. B. Gillespie, Tecumseh, Mich.; Andrew Kirk, Youngstown, Ohio; S. R. Blatteis, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.; John M. Howard, Trenton, Tenn.; Philip Petrey, Killbuck, Ohio; J. R. Bobier, Asher, Okla.; J. P. Boothby, Sweetwater, Tenn.; Edward Daugherty, New Straitsville, Ohio; J. M. Hamilton, Pecatonica, Ill.; H. A. Sommers, Lahoma, Okla.; W. M. Stinnett, Round Rock, Tex.; C. Carson, Monongalia, Pa.; Robert Culver, Baltimore, Md.; D. L. Roberts, Centralia, Mo.; Wm. H. Anderson, Greenbrier, Tenn.; I. P. Powell, Montgomery City, Mo.; Patrick H. Rowley, Milton, Vt.; Edward McLain, Cassapolis, Mich.; John R. Quigley, Sr., Ophir, Mont.; M. J. Finn, Winsted, Conn.; E. P. Meadows, Hopkins, Mo.; G. W. Hensel, Jr., Quarryville, Pa.; B. E. Finders, Ferguson, Iowa; Henry L. Romey, Bluffton, Ohio; A. Perkins, Sunset, Colo.; Chas. Rye, M. D., London, Ark.; C. B. McCray, Corry, Pa.; W. W. Baylor, Scranton, Pa.; James Kelley, Clendenin, W. Va.; O. A. Clark, Randolph, Iowa; Wm. M. Hamilton, Warrensburg, Mo.; Dennis Tierney, Alta Vista, Iowa; Jas. P. Burks, Kingsville, Mo.; A. Pecoies, Perryville, Md.; Wm. M. Gray, Virden, Ill.; T. A. Bradley, Danville, Ky.; A. H. Collins, Hastings, Okla.; J. F. Beagle, Ottumwa, Ia.

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:

### 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.