

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.

"Forget it" is President McCall's latest cry. For years he has been leaving off the "for."

The trouble with the gentlemen who talk about "honest graft" is that they are always working the other kind.

The directors of the Hall of Fame seem to have overlooked the eminent scholar who first propounded the "how old is Ann" query.

Secretary Shaw is advocating a ship subsidy while making speeches in the west. Is it possible that the secretary can think of nothing but the high seize?

It is reported that the republican national committee has \$400,000 on hand, and it is well known that several life insurance companies have explanations on hand.

Charles G. Dawes insists that the beef packers are not guilty, which statement indicates Mr. Dawes' opinion that they pleaded guilty merely to save further annoyance.

The prolonged silence of Vested Rights may be taken as an indication that it is resting up for the purpose of giving People's Rights another solar plexus blow when congress convenes.

News of the shortage of the apple crop does not thrill us. When "De Peach" fell because the worm of graft had eaten into its center we felt too bad to have any little old apple crop failure affect us.

"When we get around to tariff revision," says the Lincoln, Neb., Star, "we will take it up as protectionists—as republicans." Does this foreshadow another revision upwards in return for campaign contributions?

When a cabinet officer finds it necessary to remove a subordinate he will doubtless find the whitewash brush and pall right behind the door where the president left them after bidding farewell to Morton and Loomis.

President McCurdy announces that he has appointed a committee to investigate the Mutual Life Insurance company. The Amalgamated Association of Bank Burglars has a standing committee on the investigation of banks.

The president has issued an order that cabinet officials must not "talk shop" to the newspaper correspondents. Is it any wonder that Secretary Shaw is about ready to get out?

The Missouri building at the St. Louis exposition was destroyed by fire, and a like fate met the Missouri building at the Portland exposition. But Missouri always was a warm old state.

President McCurdy says his salary of \$150,000 a year was a "mark of appreciation" of his able management. There are a great many policyholders who look upon it as the hallmark of a very deft touch.

President Havemeyer was recently shocked by an explosion in a Colorado mine which he was inspecting. Explosions have also shocked several insurance presidents recently, but they were not mine explosions.

Senator Dick seems to believe that the people will only get a "square deal" by allowing his senatorial colleague, Mr. Foraker, to take the cards into railroad headquarters to be prepared for the deal without a cut.

The Kansas City Journal thinks that democrats should be tired of seeking tariff revision after all these years of useless effort. We note, however, that the Kansas City Journal is still striving for that new union depot.

Mr. Beck complains that Mr. Hughes frames his questions in such a way that Mr. McCurdy is put in a bad light. Some of these days it may dawn upon the Beck mind that the McCurdy answers have a great deal to do with it.

The statement that this country consumed 3,400,000 pounds of Mocha and Java coffee despite the fact that less than 350,000 pounds of it was raised, need not excite comment. Just think of what a life insurance we paid for and didn't get.

The Boston girl who has invented a machine that will count a million dollars a minute is slow. A number of eminent financiers long since invented machines that would bring them in millions faster than the Boston girl's machine could count them.

The Kansas City Journal declares that the disclosures in the insurance scandals have been made by a republican committee in the republican state of New York. And the Journal makes no pretense of being in the same class with Puck and Judge.

President McCurdy complains that Mr. Hughes is "trying to make a fool of him." But President McCurdy is wrong. Mr. Hughes is only showing the policyholders how foolish they would be to stand for McCurdy any longer.

The Kansas City Journal complains because Governor Folk's action in a recent case "gives official acknowledgment to the political power of organized labor." The Journal would perhaps prefer to continue the g. o. p. acknowledgment of the political power of organized greed and graft.

WHERE THE REMEDY LIES

President Ripley declares that the railroads lose money on every car of dressed beef shipped from Kansas City to Chicago. As long, however, as the railroads stretch every nerve to secure this dressed beef business the people will naturally regard President Ripley's statement much in the same light that they regard the statement of the little boy who declared that he was one of three children of the same parents, but never had a brother or sister. There is but one explanation of the boy's statement, and the explanation is obvious—the boy was mistaken. But if the railroads are losing money on the dressed beef business they might find relief in treating the packers like they do ordinary shippers.

BUT WHY DEFEND THE EVILS?

A number of John D. Rockefeller's neighbors called on him September 26. It is explained that the purpose of the call was to show that Mr. Rockefeller has the affection of those who know him well. Andrew Squire, who addressed Mr. Rockefeller in behalf of his fellow citizens, devoted considerable attention in his address to what was in effect a protest against railroad legislation. He paid a high tribute to the Standard Oil company and to the trust system in general. Is it not a bit strange that men who pre-

tend to gather in defense of the personal virtues of their townsman find it necessary to defend commonly admitted evils?

The criticisms of Mr. Rockefeller do not apply to his lovability or his lack of lovability; they are directed against the evils for which he is in part responsible, and it is significant that those who rush to Mr. Rockefeller's defense with the pretended purpose of testifying to his personal charms, find it impossible to disassociate their hero from the great wrongs against which the American people are protesting.

THE QUANTITATIVE THEORY

Writing in "The Commercial West," published at Minneapolis, Henry D. Baker of Chicago criticizes Mr. Bryan for "the dire prophecies of 1896." Then Mr. Baker proceeds to show the large increase in the supply of gold, concluding his article in these words:

When the increased need for money to cover the enormous gains in world values and world commerce is considered, it would certainly look as if the miners for gold, instead of accomplishing a national inflation are really instead averting a disastrous contraction, and are thereby making the human race as well as themselves, the beneficiaries of their pluck, energy and skill.

In the statement quoted Mr. Baker clearly gives confirmation to the quantitative theory for which theory Mr. Bryan contended.

BUT "THE FOREIGNER PAYS"

The Lincoln (Nebraska) Journal, a republican newspaper, says: "Dog meat is no longer obtainable in Germany, according to the reports, but the dog in the manger is doing business at the old stand. American beef and pork a plenty and at bearable prices are knocking at the gates, but inside the walls horsemeat has risen in price with the elimination of its competitor the dog, and the people are turning to coarse sea fish and rabbits for their semi-occasional bite of flesh. Beef and pork on the hoof are sixteen or seventeen cents a pound, all because the German land owners have influence enough with the government to obtain a prohibitive duty on those products."

But perhaps "the German landowners" are "the trustees of God;" perhaps they are defenders of "national honor," or it may be that they are the "devoted champions of the business interests of the country." Do they not know that "the foreigner pays the tax" when it comes to tariff duties? "Protection which guards and develops our industries is a cardinal policy of the republican party." Why not a cardinal policy with "the German landowners?"

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