

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Editor and Proprietor.CHARLES W. BRYAN
Publisher.RICHARD L. METCALFE
Associate Editor.Editorial Rooms and Business
Office 324-330 So. 12th Street.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

One Year.....\$1.00	Three Months.....25c
Six Months.....50c	Single Copy.....5c
In Clubs of 5 or more	Sample Copies Free
per Year.....75c	Foreign Postage 52c Ex- tra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

DISCONTINUANCES.—It is found that a large majority of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before expiration. It is therefore assumed that continuance is desired unless subscribers order discontinuance, either when subscribing or at any time during the year. **PRESENTATION COPIES:** Many persons subscribe for friends, intending that the paper shall stop at the end of the year. If instructions are given to this effect they will receive attention at the proper time.

RENEWALS.—The date on your wrapper shows when your subscription will expire. Thus, Jan. 31, '06, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1906. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give OLD as well as the NEW address.

ADVERTISING—rates furnished upon application. Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

"Commoner Day," February 24. "Take hold of the towline."

It has been decided to build a rock canal. Up to date it has looked like a case of block canal.

Don't forget that Saturday, February 24, is "Commoner Day."

Up to date it has cost Uncle Sam a cubic yard of money for each cubic yard of Panama canal dirt thrown.

Five new subscribers by each present-day subscriber of The Commoner means a circulation of 900,000 a week.

If each reader of The Commoner will secure at least one new subscriber on "Commoner Day" the list will be increased to 3,000,000.

If, on "Commoner Day," the new subscriptions average six for each present subscriber the list would reach more than one million.

Every reader of The Commoner is requested to devote at least a portion of February 24 to the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

Earthquakes in Michigan are terrorizing the miners. Something similar struck the stockholders about twelve or eighteen months ago.

We judge by the tone of the Washington Post that Senator Aldrich is awake at the switch waiting for the Hepburn special to loom in sight.

The postmaster general says the postmasters must limit their partisan activities. Note the omission of the words "campaign contributions."

Poultney Bigelow is now making answer by showing the photographs. The photographic negatives speak louder than the canal board negatives.

Young Mr. Rockefeller declares that a lie is never justifiable. This ought to be a pointer for the balliff who has the subpoena for the elder Rockefeller.

If Japan is really asking aid for her famine sufferers she would better be getting ready to store away the provisions that will soon be headed that way.

Postmaster General Cortelyou went far into the northwest to talk about "the influence of Abraham Lincoln." If he confined his remarks to Lincoln's influence with present-day republican

The Commoner.

leaders his speech ended with "Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen."

"Can a man live on water?" asks a curious man. The question is respectfully referred to the eminent gentlemen who use the hose and force pump in Wall street.

If there are really any canals in Mars it might be well to spend a few millions getting a wig-wag with the Martians. If by so doing we could get the name of the Martian engineer it would be an economical move.

In compliance with the suggestion made by General James B. Weaver of Iowa, Saturday, February 24, has been designated "Commoner Day." On that day any one can secure The Commoner for one year for 60 cents.

CHARLES HAMBLETON VANDERFORD

Charles Hambleton Vanderford, editor of the Democratic Advocate, Westminster, Maryland, died at his home January 26. Mr. Vanderford was born in Baltimore, October 10, 1847. In 1879 he became editor of the Westminster "Democratic Advocate." Mr. Vanderford was an able and conscientious newspaper writer. In the democratic

campaigns of 1896 and 1900 he gave faithful and conspicuous service to the party. He was an earnest, sincere man, whose capable services will be greatly missed by the democrats of Maryland.

To Mrs. Vanderford and the two children, Charles and Gladys, The Commoner gives its condolence, together with the assurance that they have the sincere sympathy of all men and women who had the honor of an intimate acquaintance with the husband and father.

When we have lost a loved one it is gratifying to be told of the high opinion entertained for him by those who, though not bound to him by ties of blood, nevertheless loved him. And those to whom the death of Charles H. Vanderford gave the keenest grief will be consoled by the knowledge that the good deeds wrought by the one they mourn made a lasting impression upon a considerable number of men. It will be no small consolation for them to hear, as they will hear on every hand, that this husband and father, ever devoted to the welfare of his loved ones, had, likewise, a lively and intelligent concern for the welfare of his fellows. Although at times he was required to stand almost alone in the defense of what he regarded as political truths, he made a good fight and kept the faith.

WASHINGTON CITY LETTER

Washington, D. C., Feb. 19.—The ship subsidy bill, having passed the senate, is now in the hands of the house merchant marine and fisheries committee of which Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, is chairman. If Mr. Grosvenor were to let out the real secrets of his heart he would probably admit that he is sorry such a bill has come his way. It is a measure upon which the republican party is badly divided. The solid democratic vote in the senate was cast against it. And what worries the republicans is that five of their own side went on record against it. Worse than that both of the Wisconsin senators opposed it. Mr. Spooner stabbed it unmercifully in his speeches. Representative Minor, of Wisconsin, is one of the leading members of the house committee that will have to consider the measure. He has been for six years a disturbing element in General Grosvenor's committee every time the ship subsidy question has been brought to the front. Mr. Minor has not hesitated to declare that most of the provisions in the bill as it has been driven through the senate are vicious and repugnant to the great majority of the people of this country. If General Grosvenor forces the issue this session the chances are that Mr. Minor and several other republican members of the committee will either submit an independent report or else unite with the minority members in opposition to the whole scheme.

General Grosvenor is not likely to show his hand for some time yet. There is no telling what the real scope of that bill is for wasting the money of the taxpayers of the country. Speaker Cannon looks upon it with a suspicious eye. That shrewd, veteran legislator is just as determined as he was at the beginning of the session to keep the aggregate appropriations down to the lowest notch. Realizing that a campaign is so soon to open "Uncle Joe" is, at this writing, said to hold that as the ship subsidy scheme has failed so many times, and that as Senators Frye, Gallinger and other advocates of the measure have at last rammed it through the upper branch of congress, they ought to be satisfied to have it sent over to the short session. If it must be passed it would be better for the republicans to hang it up and not force an issue that will be difficult to explain when the people are making up their minds as to whether it is wise to permit the dominant party to retain possession of the house of representatives.

General Grosvenor has been in sore trouble over the political conditions in his district. He is serving his tenth term in the house, and naturally desires re-election. He is unquestionably one of the ablest men on the republican side of the hall. His district is safely republican, and no democrat could win in the district unless there should be a big bolt. Such a bolt has been threatened unless the politicians out there agree to send the general back to congress. But this talk comes entirely from the Grosvenor following and there has been method in their madness. They have tried to create the impression that unless the Hon. Charles H. Grosvenor is given at least another nomination the people will rise up in their wrath and rebuke the bosses who had the

nerve to dare oppose this veteran member—the great forecaster for the republican party.

Senator Tillman's prospects for re-election have greatly improved within a week. His political enemies have been waging a most determined contest against him. They have recognized from the start that he is a mighty hard man to defeat, and about the only way open to them seemed to be to embitter the people of South Carolina against him on account of his connection with the movement that established the liquor dispensary system of the state. Mr. Tillman recently made a flying trip to the South Carolina capital to face the men who are trying to beat him. The legislature has refused to do the bidding of his political opponents. They are not numerous, but they can make a heap of fuss, and to those who may not be acquainted with the situation the average reader might conclude that this very able senator, who has done so much this session to harass the republicans, was in serious danger of being retired to the shades of private life. Senator Tillman, according to the most reliable information obtainable, undoubtedly has the support of the rank and file of the democrats of South Carolina. It does not seem possible for any one to defeat him.

The joint statehood bill has the right of way in the senate as the unfinished business. It is the identical measure that was passed by the house, and which caused such a rumpus over in that body that forty-three republicans, under the leadership of Mr. Babcock, of Wisconsin, formed themselves into a band of insurgents to prevent what they consider one of the worst outrages attempted in many years by a majority party. By using the party whip the house leaders jammed their bill through. At the same time they grievously offended Mr. Babcock, and right now they are looking around for a suitable man to run their congressional campaign again. Mr. Babcock will not have the chairmanship, and they seem to be in a bad row of stumps.

Debate on the statehood bill in the senate will not be limited. No one knows just when it will end. It may run along for several weeks, and all of a sudden it may stop and a vote be permitted on the measure—possibly by the time this letter is in print. If an early vote should be reached it will be because the opponents of the administration plan are reasonably confident they can pass an amendment that will permit the people of Arizona and New Mexico to decide by popular election whether or not they are willing to be brought into the union as one state. Senator Foraker is a staunch friend of these apparently helpless territories. He has an amendment that will prove to be their salvation if it is adopted. His colleague, Senator Dick, takes the other side. The latter opened the discussion in favor of the Hamilton bill that was passed by the house. The senators and representatives who want to save Arizona from being joined to New Mexico are not making idle boasts. They know they have a hard fight before them. But they figure with some confidence that they probably can command enough votes to divide the question, and that will be their plan of battle until the final test is made.

ALFRED J. STOFER.