

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor. CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher.
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Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second class mail matter.

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

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

"The peace of the grave" has been secured again, in the Philippines.

Senator Tillman says the purest whiskey made is moonshine. "Moonshine."

Up to date about everything has been done towards digging the Panama canal except getting ready to dig.

President Roosevelt might try the remnants of his coal arbitration scheme on his republican friends in Iowa.

The two most strenuous standpatters are the man who benefits by the tariff graft and the man who has to pay it all.

Peace has again been restored in Jolo, and eight hundred or a thousand Moros have been benevolently assimilated.

The Minneapolis Journal says that Mr. Rockefeller is trying to keep in the background. Wrong. Mr. Rockefeller is keeping underground.

Speaker Cannon is acting like a gentleman who believes that legislation should consist in hitching an enacting clause to his political thoughts.

General Wood points with pride to the fact that his military record is fully equal to his record as a physician, in point of results and mortality statistics.

By watching the tumble in the price of Chicago street railway stocks other cities may get some idea of just what value to put upon franchises for taxing purposes.

"We have too many different kinds of money now," says Secretary Shaw. If the secretary means that "we" editorially, all right; if he means it in the plural he is wrong, as usual.

Let us see! Isn't it a congressman from Springfield, Ohio, who is so insistent on cutting down the congressional representation from the south because that section is so unjust to the negro?

William E. Curtis hails a new book as "shedding a new light on American republics." This republic would do well to get out of some of the new lights that have been shed upon it of late.

Senator Foraker seems to realize that as long as senators are elected by legislators there is really no reason why a senator should be influenced by any such little side issues as public interests.

WASHINGTON CITY LETTER

Washington, D. C., March 19.—While the situation in the senate as regards the railroad rate bill is not entirely satisfactory to Senator Tillman and the other democrats leading the great fight in behalf of the shippers of the United States, they feel confident, at least, that in a few weeks the upper branch of congress will dispose of this important measure. As previously pointed out in this correspondence the friends of the main proposition are not a unit as to the extent the bill ought to be amended. The question, however, will be weighed carefully, and there will be abundant opportunity between now and the time the voting begins for the democrats and the republicans acting with them to confer and agree upon changes the reform element think should be made to perfect the proposed law. No careful or accurate poll has yet been made by the democrats for the reason that a great many of the senators on both sides of the chamber have not desired to make it. They are waiting to hear more of the speeches on the engrossing subject. As much as the question has been discussed within the past three years, with the thousands and thousands of printed pages of testimony taken at the various committee hearings, and the pages that have been written by the brightest men connected with the press of this and other countries, it would seem that there is little more to be said. And yet nearly every prominent senator who takes the floor manages to hold the closest attention of his auditors. New arguments are constantly being advanced. The interest of the public in the debates is simply intense. The seating capacity of the galleries is not large enough to accommodate the thousands who daily apply for admission. Senators of both parties are free in the distribution of tickets to the reserved sections. As is always the case during the session of congress the capital city is crowded with visitors from every section of the country. But a small percentage of the favored ones are able to gain access to the chamber on the days that the big guns are to be fired in the discussion, and it is an interesting sight to behold handsomely dressed ladies entering the capitol an hour or two before the senate is called to order. The women appear to take the keenest interest in the debates, and men and women both seem more than repaid for remaining hours if Senator Tillman happens to enliven the proceedings as he has frequently done since the leadership in this remarkable fight was thrust upon him by the disgruntled and baffled Senator Aldrich and other republican members of the interstate commerce committee. The South Carolinian has surely buckled on his armor and has been ready for the fray from the beginning.

Mr. Aldrich and those acting with him pretend that they are anxious for a vote whenever the friends of the bill say the word. The offer is construed to mean that Mr. Aldrich and his followers are reasonably confident that they can control enough votes to adopt a court review amendment that will not be entirely acceptable to Senator Tillman, President Roosevelt and others who are earnestly striving to have a law framed that will bring the relief asked for by shippers. That remains to be seen. More light will be thrown on the situation within the next ten days. It is possible that within that period the democrats will find it necessary to have a party conference to determine just where all their members and allies stand.

Two of the ablest speeches that have been delivered on the rate question were by Senators Culberson, of Texas, and Rayner, of Maryland. These speeches, on account of their force and brilliancy, as well as the new points raised, will be very largely circulated in the coming campaign. Messrs. Rayner and Culberson are ranked as among the finest orators in public life. The Maryland senator has advised the railroad owners and managers to give up the contest. He has told them in the plainest sort of language that rate regulation will be brought about by a law soon to be enacted, and that it will not confiscate or depreciate their property to any extent. Senator Rayner and his family are heavily interested in railway securities. This fact makes his argument all the more powerful. During his six years' service in the house of representatives Mr. Rayner was a member of the important interstate and foreign commerce committee. He has always made a special study of measures affecting the commerce of the country, and in his legal practice has had for his clients men identified with leading industries.

Most of the Ohio republicans in congress, and lots of Ohioans holding department positions

here, are in a perturbed state of mind over the recent turn of events. As published in the daily papers a Roosevelt republican club was recently organized at Cincinnati. The president and secretary of war were unanimously elected honorary members of the organization. Judge Taft, writing for the president and himself, threw a big bomb into the camp of the dominant faction out in the big Ohio city. In plain language the secretary told the reform element in his party that if that old combination of republican tricksters persisted in maintaining the machine and nominated objectionable men for office it was the duty of honest, sincere and fair-play republicans to bolt. This thrust was aimed directly at Cincinnati republicans who train under the banner of Senator Foraker. Boss Cox and Senator Foraker, through force of circumstances, have been compelled for years to have a close political alliance, even if it was not agreeable to all concerned. On occasions, too, in the past when Senator Hanna was living and at the head of political affairs in Ohio, Boss Cox, Senator Foraker, General Dick, General Grosvenor and the rest of them had to make a semblance of getting along harmoniously.

Two republican conventions have been held in the Sixth Ohio district that is now represented in the house by Congressman Thomas Edmund Scroggy, of Xenia. This is normally a democratic district and the democrats would ordinarily carry it without a republican bolt. The chances are the democrats will safely bag that seat this year. The turning down of General Grosvenor in the Athens district may not result in the election of a democrat, but the republicans are apt to get a shaking up in that part of Ohio they will not soon forget.

Democratic visitors from Ohio to the nation's capital bring the information that Hon. Tom L. Johnson, the invincible mayor of Cleveland, will be unusually active in this year's political campaign. He feels honored in having been selected as the Ohio member of the national democratic committee, and his friends and followers declare that he will put forth extra efforts to increase the democratic representation in the next house of representatives. It is among the possibilities that two democratic congressmen may be elected from that end of the state.

The prevailing impression is that the statehood bill will be passed substantially as amended by the senate. Speaker Cannon and his lieutenants are mad all over because the senate knocked out of the measure every line relating to the territories of Arizona and New Mexico. As has heretofore been mentioned in these letters they wanted to drag Arizona and New Mexico into the union as one state—yoke them together in spite of the loud protests that came from all portions of the great west. The speaker and those acting with him will hold out for a time, but eventually they will have to yield. The senate will not recede. The belief is general that if put to the test the Foraker amendment will receive more votes than were cast for it the day the senate amended the house bill. Speaker Cannon insists that the senate overrides the lower branch of congress too often. He wants to put a stop to such practices.

The Arizona committee of leading citizens who have been here for two months or more to prevent a union of their territory with New Mexico, and which is composed almost equally of democrats and republicans, are well satisfied with the situation. They feel confident that if the house managers maintain their stubborn attitude the senate will hold out indefinitely for the Foraker amendment that was placed in the bill by a combination formed between the democrats and a number of republicans. Only one democrat favored the Hamilton statehood bill—Senator Clarke, of Arkansas.

As Oklahoma and Indian Territory have such a favorable opportunity to be admitted the pressure on Speaker Cannon and his followers to cease their opposition is simply terrific. Letters and telegrams are constantly pouring in from the states of the central west, and the information is vouchsafed that it will be bad for the republicans at the congressional election if the house republicans do not surrender.

The free alcohol bill will soon be favorably reported to the house. The measure is being prepared by a sub-committee of the ways and means committee consisting of Messrs. Payne, of New York; Hill, of Connecticut; Boutel, of Illinois—republicans; and Clark, of Missouri, and Underwood, of Alabama, democrats. Mr. Payne says that he will do his utmost to have it passed this session.

ALFRED J. STOFER.