

# The Commoner.

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### "COMING HOME TO ROOST"

Defending his efforts to protect Paul Morton from prosecution, Mr. Roosevelt said that the corporation rather than the individual should be prosecuted. Judge Humphrey's decision in the beef trust cases, which decision we are told has greatly grieved the president, was, in effect, that the corporation rather than the individual packers should be prosecuted.

It looks somewhat like a case of "chickens coming home to roost."

### "CALAMITY" ARGUMENT

A resolution has been introduced in the New York legislature providing for an investigation of the state banking department. The New York World is authority for the statement that "a republican of national note" wired to Albany: "An investigation now would be a public calamity."

Referring to this telegram, the World says:

"Not so. The calamity, if there is one, consists in having a great state department in such condition that the mere proposal to find out what that condition is becomes a disturbing element in politics and finance. To leave the department in that morass would be to double the calamity."

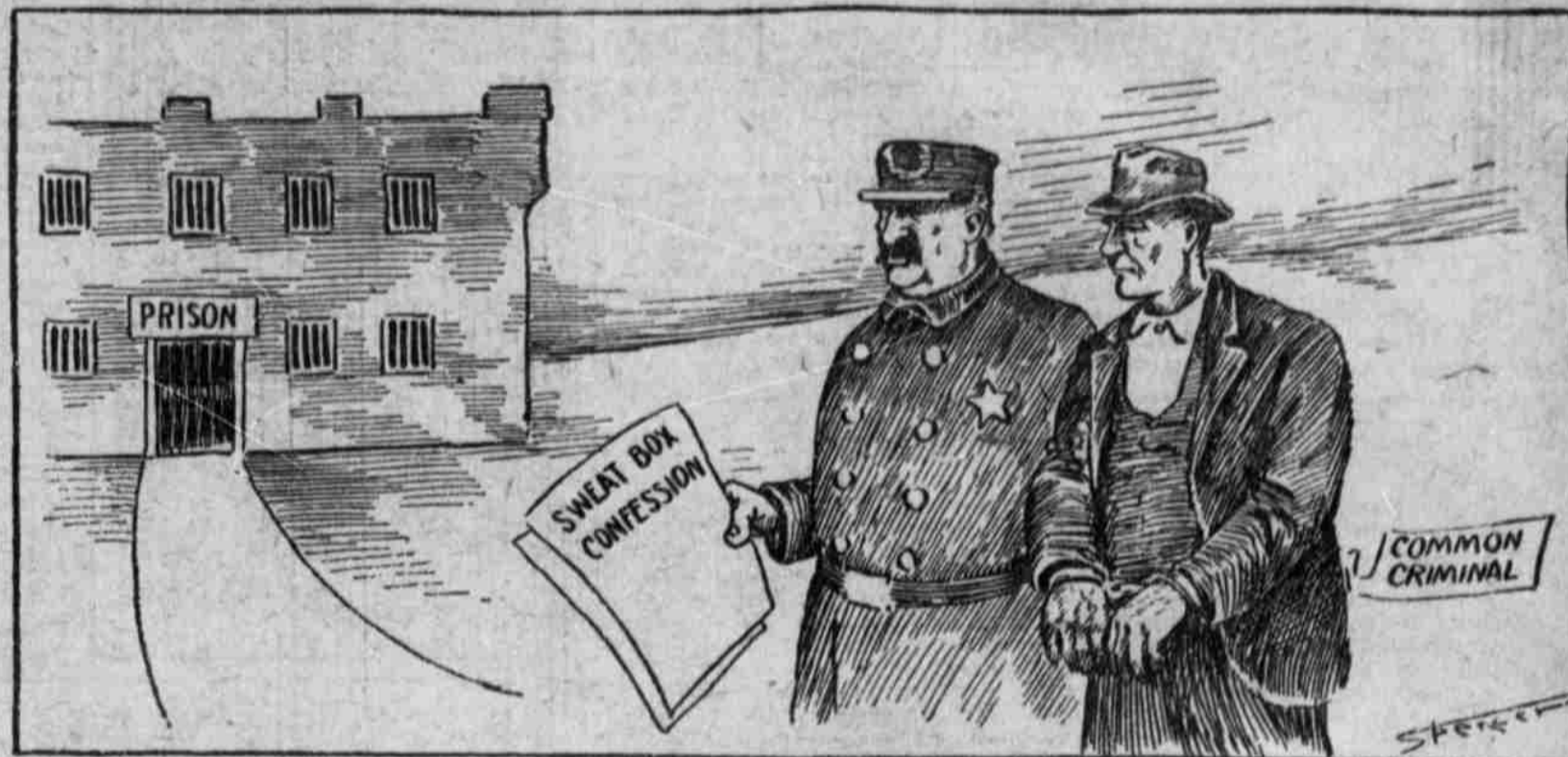
Has a change come over the spirit of the World's dreams, or has it forgotten that the "calamity" argument has been used very effectively by "republicans of national note" at times when the World was working earnestly for republican success? The "calamity" argument is even used in this day by the opponents of railway rate regulation.

### NOT ALL DISTURBED

Newspaper dispatches say that Senator Chauncey M. Depew has become so nervous and melancholy, as a result of the recent exposes, that he is seriously ill at his home, and is not likely to resume his seat in the senate during the present session. We are told that the McCurdys have fled to Paris, driven from their native land by the condemnation of their countrymen. McCall is said to have died of a broken heart, and even Andrew Hamilton, the far-famed lobbyist of the insurance combine, seems to be a bit conscience stricken.

It is worthy of note, however, that the equilibrium of republican committeemen having knowledge of the misappropriation of several hundred thousand dollars of policyholders' money is not disturbed.

If the republican party won't "put it back" it might at least retire from the cabinet the man under whose administration as chairman of the republican committee a considerable sum of the policyholders' money was misappropriated, and for the benefit of the "party of God and morality."



JUSTICE!

## Chinese Education, Religion and Philosophy

### Mr. Bryan's Eleventh Letter

Chinese education has been very much over-estimated. The literati have boasted of the antiquity of the government and educational system, the invention of the compass, the printing press and of gunpowder, and the western world has been inclined to concede their claims, but these claims will not bear investigation. The government is ancient, but it is also antiquated. The emperor exercises a power as unlimited as that of the czar and is as inaccessible to his subjects. The ruling family seized the throne two and a half centuries ago and has retained power because the people have learned to submit to almost anything. The laws have not only been arbitrary, but they have been cruel; the officials have not only been appointed without consulting the governed, but they have been shamelessly corrupt.

When Confucius and Mencius taught, they complained of the degeneracy of the government, and in more than twenty centuries that have elapsed since those days, there has been no marked improvement. Of course there have been pure and patriotic men in high places occasionally, but the government showed neither perfection then nor improvement afterwards—until within the last few years.

What if the compass was known to the Chinese before it was to Europe? They made little use of it compared with the use to which

it was put by the Portuguese, the Spaniards, the Dutch and other Europeans.

They invented gunpowder and yet they equipped their soldiers with bows and arrows down to the present generation.

They invented the printing press and yet until recently they had no newspapers and but few books. I shall speak in another article of the improvement in this direction, but as an evidence of the little use made of the printing press even now, I record the fact that in a four days' ride (at present the train runs only in the day time) from the capital of the empire to Hankow, through a densely populated section, we did not see a man reading a paper or hear the voice of a newsboy.

Equally without justification is the boast of great learning among the people. They have had no educational system and their children have had to rely upon private schools, a few families getting together and hiring a teacher. Even then the main purpose of their higher education was to obtain a government position. As only a very limited number could possibly be selected at the competitive examinations held by the government, there was small incentive to study and the written language, with two hundred and fourteen radicals and twelve hundred different characters, was enough to discourage even the ambitious. A Chinese official