

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 6. No. 17

Lincoln, Nebraska, May 11, 1906

Whole Number 277

## CONTENTS

MR. BRYAN'S LETTER  
PLAINLY A SURRENDER  
THE PARAMOUNT EVIL  
THE PANIC OF 1893  
PILING IT ON  
CONGRESS AND THE COURTS  
PROSECUTE THE ROCKEFELLERS  
COREY RE-ELECTED  
WASHINGTON CITY LETTER  
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS  
HOME DEPARTMENT  
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT  
NEWS OF THE WEEK

## GOOD WORK IN TEXAS

A. Oswald, a dealer in real estate at Beaumont, Tex., writes: "I hereby hand you a list of 105 subscribers for The Commoner each for one year, and attach draft for \$63 to pay for same. I give all the benefit of your offer of club rates, 60c. Having some spare time I thought that I could put some of it to no better use than to interest some of my friends to take and read The Commoner. This much I have accomplished with little effort and expect to be able to add to the list very much from time to time."

## IS IT STRANGE?

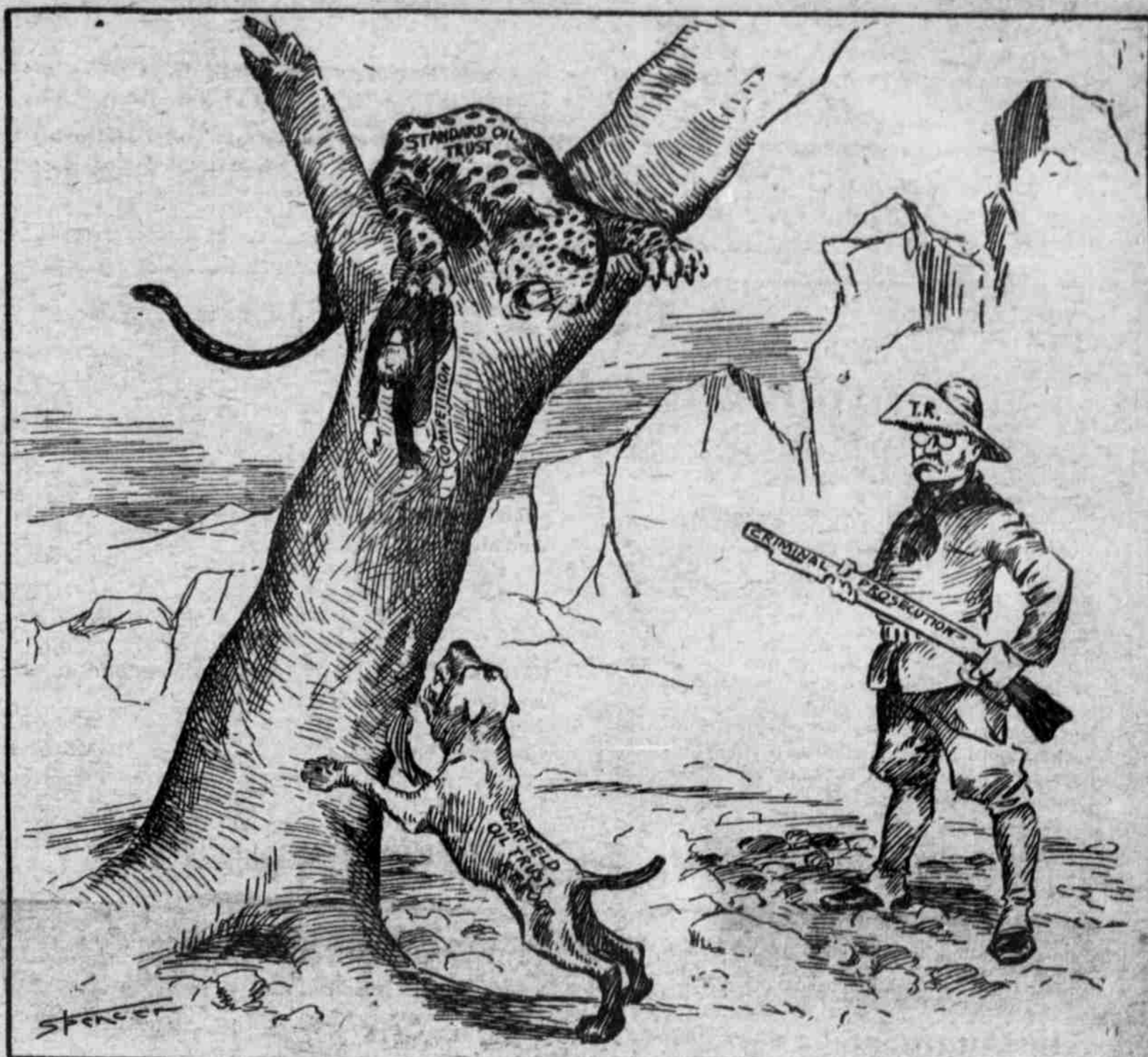
The New York World complains that Secretary Shaw "goes on indefinitely extending his scheme to make it profitable for a few national banks to import gold." The World says that Mr. Shaw "betrays a lax sense of responsibility, as well as an extraordinary desire to oblige a few banks—it might also be said one bank." Is the New York World surprised?

Who contributed liberally to the campaign funds for the republican victory which made possible Mr. Shaw's elevation to the treasury department?

Is it possible that with all of its opportunities for gleaning information the World was in ignorance of the fact that at the time it was contributing to republican success in 1896, powerful financiers were putting up money for the use of the republican party and for the advantage of their own pet schemes?

## A GREAT PRIVILEGE

In his speech at St. Louis Secretary of the Treasury Shaw said that of course every one "would like to buy that which he consumes as cheaply as possible, and sell what he produces as high as possible." Of course! And that is just where the trust magnate—the beef trust magnate, for instance—who contributes generously to the republican campaign fund, has the advantage of the common folks. He fixes the price at which the cattle raiser must sell his cattle, and he fixes the price which the consumer must pay for his meat.



**Bring Him Down, Mr. President!**

## JAVA--THE BEAUTIFUL

Mr. Bryan's Seventeenth Letter

We had not thought of visiting Java, but we heard so much of it from returning tourists as we journeyed through Japan, China and the Philippines that we turned aside from Singapore and devoted two weeks to a trip through the island. Steamers run to both Batavia (which is the capital and the metropolis of the western end of the island) and Soerabaja, the chief city of eastern Java, and a railroad about four hundred miles long connects these two cities. A tour of the islands can thus be made in from ten to fifteen days, according to connections, but unless one is pressed for time, he can profitably employ a month or more in this little island, attractive by nature and made still more beautiful by the hands of man. There are excellent hotels at the principal stopping places, and the rates are more moderate than we have found elsewhere in the Orient.

The lover of mountain scenery finds much in Java to satisfy the eye. The railroad from Batavia to Soerabaja twice crosses the range, and as the trains run only in the day time, one can, without leaving the cars, see every variety of tropical growth, from swamp to mountain top, from cocoonut groves and rice fields on the low land to the tea gardens and coffee plantations of the higher altitudes, not to speak of mountain streams, gorges and forests.

Java is the home of the volcano and contains more of these fiery reservoirs than any other area on the earth's surface. While only about six hundred miles in length and from sixty to a hundred and twenty miles in width, it has, according to Wallace, thirty-eight volcanoes, some of them still smoking and all of them interest-

ing relics of a period when the whole island was deluged with molten lava. Some assert that almost all of Java has been built up by the eruptions of volcanoes. Two extinct volcanoes, Salak and Gedeh, can be seen from Bultenzorg, and from the top of Boro Boedoe temple nine volcanoes can be counted when the air is clear—at least, Groneman so declares in his description of this temple, although not so many were visible the day we visited there.

It is only twenty-three years ago that Krakatau, which stands upon an island of the same name in the Strait of Sunda just off the east end of Java, startled the world with an eruption seldom equalled in history. It began smoking in May, 1883, and continued active until the 26th of August following, when explosions took place which were heard at Batavia, eighty miles distant, and the next day the explosions were still more gigantic, being audible two thousand miles away. The loss of life caused by the mud and ashes and by the waves set in motion by the eruption was officially estimated at over thirty-six thousand. Various scientific societies, especially of Holland, England and France, made exhaustive reports on the Krakatau eruption. The Royal Society of Great Britain estimated that the volume of smoke arose to a height of seventeen miles and that several cubic miles of mud, lava and stones poured forth from the crater to the ruin of a large area. At one place the water rose more than seventy-five feet and threw a steamship over the harbor-head into a Chinese market, but under the influence of a tropical sun and abundant moisture the slopes of the volcano soon grew green again, and now the natives speed