

# The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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Up to date the tetanus germ has refused to be gobbled up by any syndicate.

Mr. Cannon has adjourned and returns home to find his fences somewhat out of repair.

Toledo is making it hot for the local ice trust, and the presiding judge refuses to thaw.

Several treaties advocated by the president are still accumulating dust in the senate pigeon-holes.

It is reported that "Wizard" Burbank is engaged in the task of "improving the watermelon." Treason!

Several Toledo icemen are greatly astonished at the very idea of the law being enforced against men who have money.

The work of the fifty-ninth congress was such as to make it necessary for the people to work like sixty to make the next one better.

A medical convention at Boston has decided that there are seven kinds of headaches. Does this list include the "mornin' after" brand?

"The Jungle" has been barred from the St. Paul public library. This certainly deserves substantial recognition from Mr. J. Ogden Armour.

Having decided not to pay its just losses in San Francisco the insurance trust announces a raise in rates in order to enable it not to pay what it owes.

It is reported that John D. Rockefeller does his own marketing. Lucky man. He can fix the price of what he sells as well as the price of what he buys.

The people are not so much interested in the pen that signed the meat bill as they are in the "pen" made ready for the violators of the bill's provisions.

The senators got what they said about the printers in the G. P. O. into the Congressional Record. What the printers said about the senators would probably burn holes in paper.

Governor Cummins seems to be laboring under the opinion that the republicans of Iowa know better than members of the national republican committee what Iowa wants. Mr. Perkins' arbitration offer comes rather late in the game.

Republican organs that boast of the large surplus should explain why it is proposed to issue \$30,000,000 of 2 per cent bonds to add to the burden of the taxpayers. Why not advance the money out of the surplus and thus keep down interest charges?

# WASHINGTON CITY LETTER

Washington, July 9.—Senator Tillman is not entirely pleased with the railroad rate bill as it passed congress. He bitterly complains that the Standard Oil company was allowed to run things pretty much as it pleases so far the the pipe lines are concerned. The South Carolinian, however, is thankful that the law contains some good features, and the truth of history will give him credit for placing on the statute books a much better measure than could have been possible but for his efforts. Mr. Tillman labored so hard this session in the interest of the people of the land that at the close of the session he was almost worn out physically. Had he not been so persistent it is doubtful if the new law had been worth the paper it is written on. He surely made the republicans in the senate toe the mark.

Just before the session of congress closed the republican members of the house rules committee went to greater lengths in gagging the members of that body than was ever before attempted. A special order was brought in that was so outrageous that even so intense a republican as Mr. Cooper, of Wisconsin, had to vigorously protest. He and Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, had a heated debate, and for a time it really looked as if they might have a personal difficulty. Minority Leader Williams denounced the action of the committee as the worst usurpation of power that he has ever heard of.

During the last congress the republican triumvirate acted in a reasonably fair manner, but the success of their party at the polls two years ago, and the big majority of the republicans secured at the latest congressional election, seemed to give them the idea they had ample license to not only deprive the minority members of their rights, but also to curb the majority. From the very foundation of the government there has been a rule that provides for reading and printing in advance conference reports on important bills. The speaker and his lieutenants, however, suddenly made up their minds that if they were to adjourn congress by the time they had fixed upon it would be necessary to gag the members, and they suspended the regular rules by the special permission referred to. President Roosevelt also wanted to get out of Washington in a hurry to settle himself at his Oyster Bay home, and the consequence was that in rushing things through there was considerable "slipshod" legislation during the closing hours of the session. A record will be made of the things the republicans in congress did as well as of the things they did not do, and the democratic managers feel quite confident they will have some fine campaign material during the months that the battle is to be waged for control of the next house of representatives.

In political and legislative circles it is generally thought that Secretary Taft will not accept an appointment on the supreme court bench. For some months Mr. Taft was inclined to take the position that had undoubtedly been tendered him by President Roosevelt, and it was well understood here that the latter was anxious to honor his friend and adviser. It was also the belief among public men at the time that President Roosevelt, if his influence could be used to bring it about, that Secretary Root should be trotted out as the republican candidate for president two years hence. But the record of the secretary of state and his close affiliation with so many of the gigantic corporations that have been exposed in connection with their efforts to corrupt the politics of the nation caused Mr. Roosevelt to put on his thinking cap. Well posted men are of the opinion that he soon reached the conclusion that aside from the fact that New York has had so many candidates for the presidency it would never do to bring out Secretary Root, able man though he be. Ohio has had her share of candidates also, but the knowing ones in the republican party appear to think that if this administration is to control the next republican nomination Secretary Taft would be the best man to tie to. The president also wishes to retain for a year longer, at least, the services of Secretary Taft. It may happen that before the president's term expires there will be another vacancy on the supreme court. Then Mr. Taft could be named. Several of the members of the court are advanced in years and it might be an easy matter to get them to retire in the event that Mr. Taft serves his chief almost to the end of the term and finds that he has no chance to secure his party's nomination for the presidency. Many

democrats concede that Secretary Taft is probably the strongest man the republicans could name for the presidency. He is certainly a man of ability and is very popular personally. Of course, he would have to do a lot of explaining to cover up the sins of the present administration.

The backers of Vice President Fairbanks are doing more active political work probably than any others, and if they do not secure the presidential nomination for him they will at least make quite a show in the next republican convention.

Col. Charles J. Bonaparte, secretary of the navy, is apparently out of joint with the regular republican organization in the state of Maryland. He is a recent convert to republicanism. He used to be in the democratic party, but for many years had the habit of bolting the national and state tickets when the nominees did not suit him. Two years ago he was an elector-at-large on the republican ticket and managed to pull through, being the only republican in Maryland to receive a majority of the votes cast. President Roosevelt had been employing him here to help prosecute the postoffice department people indicted for grafting. The colonel received nice, fat fees. When the opportunity presented itself the president asked him to take a seat in his cabinet, and it has caused a pretty row among the Maryland republicans, for the secretary of the navy has constantly opposed the old line republicans in the state. In the present house of representatives Maryland has three republicans—Mudd, Wachter and Pearre. The secretary trains only with Pearre. He ignores Mudd and Wachter entirely, and has dictated all the federal appointments for the state. Wachter is not going to run for congress again. His district will certainly be carried by the democrats this year. He is the only republican who has ever been able to carry it. He is of German descent, is a genial man, a fine mixer and very popular with the foreign element in the city of Baltimore.

About the sorest republican in the entire state of Maryland is William H. Jackson, who, for two terms, represented in the house here what is known as the Eastern Shore district. At the election two years ago he was defeated by Thomas A. Smith, democrat. Jackson entered a contest for the seat, but even a republican elections committee could not give him the seat. They want more testimony. Jackson used to be an ardent democrat. He bolted ten years ago and finally landed right into the republican camp. He is a very rich man and has spent money freely to control the district. Strange to relate he is a brother and a partner in business of that staunch old democrat, ex-Governor E. E. Jackson. The latter fights his brother in redhot fashion every time he tries to break into congress, and is looked upon as one of the truest democrats in the land. It is said that ex-Governor Jackson will be a candidate for the senate when the next Maryland legislature meets.

"Bill" Jackson, as they call him down in his part of the country, will be compelled to run again for the house this year. Reports from the district are that a million dollars, were he to turn loose that much cash, could not again put him in congress. Thomas A. Smith, the democratic representative, has greatly strengthened himself this session by looking out for legislation in which his constituents are deeply interested, and besides, the republican elections committee have practically repudiated Jackson.

Further reports from Pennsylvania indicate that the democrats have exceedingly bright prospects of not only carrying the state at the coming election, but they will rout the republicans in a number of the congressional districts. It is claimed that the democrats will elect not less than eight members of the state delegation in the next house.

Representative Garber, the chairman of the Ohio democratic central committee, says that the democrats will win in at least six of the Ohio districts this year, and it would not surprise him were they to carry from eight to ten of the districts, even in the face of the fact that the republicans have gerrymandered the state clearly in their own interest. The Ohio republicans are so alarmed over the outlook that they have secured a promise from "Uncle Joe" Cannon that he will speak in six of the close districts.

Congressmen Towne, of New York, and Clark, of Missouri, will be engaged for the next few weeks delivering addresses at chautauqua meetings. Their addresses will be chiefly of a political nature.

ALFRED J. STOFER.