

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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The president's annual message contained 18,000 words.

The short session is generally used to hurry through legislation that burdens the public and profits the special interests.

Of course you know that you should do your Christmas shopping early, and of course you will put it off until the last minute.

Word comes from Hawaii that the "Heathen Chinese" is not the only one of his color who has "ways peculiar and tricks vain."

The country will greatly regret the retirement of Mr. Hitchcock just as the developments in the land fraud cases begin to be really interesting.

By throwing his influence on the side of wholesome tariff reduction Mr. Carnegie could aid in preventing other men from worrying about dying poor.

That "key to the Orient" argument used by the imperialists calls renewed attention to the fact that we must keep right on buying expensive locks for it to fit.

The Sioux City Journal notes that "from now on Senator LaFollette will have opportunity to say it to their faces." Correct; and he is just the man for the job, too.

This little flurry with Japan calls renewed attention to the gold brick we bought when providence "threw the Philippines into our laps" on payment of \$20,000,000.

It must be admitted that those who favor asset currency have every reason to advocate a ship subsidy. One is founded on wind and the other is founded on water.

Secretary Root says the trade of South America will be profitable. Then he asks the people to pay a lot of men a handsome subsidy for engaging in a business that he says would be profitable. That sort of gold brick formerly found ready sale, but of late the people have been applying the acid test.

When the people ask congress for something during the short session they are told that the time is too short. Then during the short session congress proceeds to do many things that the people oppose, but it is such a long time until the next election that the people forget all about the wrongs inflicted upon them.

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS

The nomination of Mr. Bonaparte, now secretary of the navy, for attorney general, was attacked in the senate in executive session by Senator Culberson of Texas. Senator Culberson called attention to some utterances made by Mr. Bonaparte during a speech delivered at Chicago in September, 1899. This speech was delivered before a conference which had the trust problem under consideration. Mr. Culberson read this extract from Mr. Bonaparte's speech:

"Emphatically, no legislative action in regulation or restraint of combinations, whether by congress or state legislatures, is desirable. Our public men (with, I need not say, some honorable exceptions) are wholly unfit to deal with any such matters. The attempt will be highly demoralizing to all concerned; the practical results (except in the levy of blackmail) altogether nugatory."

Mr. Culberson then commented on the unfitness of any man who would make such a speech to be charged with the responsibility of enforcing anti-trust legislation enacted by the public men whom the speaker had criticised. Mr. Culberson also read an additional paragraph from Mr. Bonaparte's speech at Chicago, as follows:

"I regard the tendency of combination as an inevitable feature of modern civilization, from which no free and enlightened country can escape, and which has force in proportion to each country's freedom and enlightenment. I think the consolidation or combination of railway companies into large systems has been shown by experience to be desirable. If concentration is carried so far as to create a practical monopoly of the product, the cost of production may be further decreased from the fact that the combination will become the only purchaser of the raw material and the only employer of the specially skilled labor needed to produce this, and can therefore bring down the price of the former and the wages of the latter, provided it stopped short of the point where the production of the raw material ceases to be profitable and where the labor is driven into other forms of employment. If a combination of producing agencies means, or includes a combination of laborers, as in a trade union or a federation of such unions, the result of such combination, in so far as it affects the cost of production, must be to increase this, since its purpose and tendency is to raise the wages of the labor employed."

Senator Knox said that he had talked frequently to Mr. Bonaparte and could assure the senate that Mr. Bonaparte had undergone a complete change of heart and that he is now heartily in accord with Mr. Roosevelt's policy on the trust question. Later Mr. Bonaparte's nomination was confirmed as was also that of Mr. Moody to be justice of the supreme court.

Governor-elect Hughes of New York was invited to Washington to dine with the president.

Speaking on the resolution to declare vacant the seat of Senator Smoot of Utah, Senator Burrows of Michigan scored the Mormon church. In the course of his speech Senator Burrows said: "The purposes and aims of the great republican party have been entirely misrepresented by its leaders in their political dealings with the Mormon church." It is believed that Mr. Burrows meant this as a criticism of Mr. Roosevelt for sending Secretary Taft to Idaho during the last campaign to help out the republican ticket in that state when it had the support of the Mormon church.

Representative Murdock, republican of Kansas, made a speech in the House urging that the system of paying railroads for carrying the mails be changed. He declared that false weight authorized by worn-out laws enrich the railroads and has become a great burden to the government.

The New York American made the charge that Leopold, king of Belgium, maintains a lobby in Washington for the purpose of influencing American action with respect to the Congo Free State. It was charged that Senator Morgan's private secretary was connected with this lobby. As a result the secretary has lost his position.

In the senate Mr. Rayner spoke on the San

Francisco school resolution. He said he would take his stand on these two propositions. First, that there is no provision whatever in the treaty with Japan that confers the right that the president speaks of or gives to the government of Japan the privileges that it claims in connection with the public school system of California or of any other state. Second, if there was such a provision in this treaty, or any other treaty conferring this right, the treaty would be void and without any authority upon the part of the United States to make it and in violation of the constitution and the treaty-making power of the government.

Senator Rayner criticized President Roosevelt's position on the Japanese question. If the military and civil forces of the federal government were to be used by the president, Mr. Rayner said, it became very important to know the exact power of the president in the matter. "Because," he added, "it is quite a serious matter in view of the great calamity that has lately befallen the city of San Francisco for the president to contemplate the bombardment of the city at this time and declare war against the boards of county school trustees of California if there is no justification or pretext upon which such proceedings can be undertaken. If he can take possession of the Japanese students contrary to the laws of California, he could with equal propriety send us an amendment to the Santo Domingo treaty and demand the admission of the negro children of Santo Domingo into the white schools of South Carolina or of any other state of the union. Of course, if the people have come to the conclusion that everything is right, then there is hardly any use in contesting any of his propositions and instead of conferring upon him the power to give congress information of the state of the union, we might confer upon him the function of furnishing his own peculiar views upon the entire state of the universe and recommending any improvements or changes in the general plan of creation that he may deem expedient from the cradle to the grave."

The house has adopted a resolution offered by Miller of Kansas calling upon the secretary of commerce and labor to investigate the lumber trust.

William B. Ridgley has been re-appointed comptroller of the currency.

Senator Dubois delivered a speech in the senate in which he charged that Mr. Roosevelt is in league with the Mormon hierarchy. He charged that the president is influenced on the Mormon side in Utah and in Idaho.

The president's simplified spelling reform came to a sudden termination. He has withdrawn his simplified spelling order to the public printer and hereafter all documents will be printed in the old way. The house of representatives passed this resolution: "Resolved, That it is the sense of the house of representatives that hereafter in presenting reports, documents or other publications authorized by law, ordered by congress of either branch, thereof or emanating from the executive departments, their bureaus or branches and independent offices of the government, the government printing office should observe and adhere to the standard of orthography prescribed in generally accepted dictionaries of the English language."

By a vote of 106 to 188 the house of representatives refused to increase from \$5,000 to \$7,000 the salaries of senators, members and delegates. By a large majority, however, the house increased the salaries of the vice president, the speaker of the house and members of the president's cabinet to \$12,000 each.

It is reported that the president will send to congress a special message advocating the passage of a ship subsidy measure.

George Kindle of Denver will soon file with the interstate commerce commission a petition asking for a readjustment of the whole scheme of railroad rates west of the Missouri river.