

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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Send in your renewal now.

After the ship subsidy will come the railroad subsidy, perhaps.

Asset currency and ship subsidy! There's a pair of issues for you.

You do not have to wait until next Tuesday to begin the work of reformation.

After all, the proofreader is the court of last resort in this matter of spelling reform.

The Commoner wishes every one of its million readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

That sound from the far east is but the bones of Noah Webster rattling merrily in their coffin.

Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C., is just now carrying an immense amount of word traffic.

Secretary Shaw is performing some wonderful feats of mental acrobatics on the prosperity high trapeze.

Six special messages within a month, and then talk about economy in the government printing office!

Read The Commoner's clubbing offers. Now is the time to make up your list of papers and magazines for 1907.

A six-day bicycle race is about as useless as depending on the tariff beneficiaries for revision of the tariff.

It must have required great mechanical ingenuity to keep some of those steam shovels going for three whole days.

The season of year for renewal of subscriptions is at hand. An early renewal will help us avoid the usual January rush.

It is awfully hard for a high tariff advocate to keep his logic on straight when it comes to paying the bill for the lumber in his new house.

That beautiful Panama bouquet handed us by the president promises to be changed into a lemon by the time the treasury department foots the bills.

"Plenty of money in the country—what we need is confidence." Remember how the advocates of asset currency declaimed that ten years ago. Now, with double the amount of money we had ten years ago those same people are demanding more. What a woeful lack of confidence they must have

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A Pittsburg bank cashier is reported \$950,000 short in his accounts. Bad as this story is, it is better than the average news story coming from Pittsburg.

In less than a week we enter upon the year 1907—the year before the great presidential battle of 1908. The way to win in 1908 is to do effective work in 1907.

It seems that Mr. James J. Hill is so busy handing out bargain counter advice that he has no time to give to the little matter of furnishing cars for the northwest.

A ship subsidy means the payment of millions raised from taxation of all the people into the pockets of a few—and that means a further delay of tariff revision.

By storing up great sympathy for the Congo sufferers it may be possible to keep from centering attention on General Wood's assimilation exercises in the Philippines.

Those who attended to their Christmas shopping early in the season will receive the bills about the same time as those who shopped during the closing hours of the rush.

Water has at last flowed across the isthmus of Panama. It went through a pipe line, however. This may indicate the extent of the "pipe" about finishing the canal in eight years.

After condemning Poultney Bigelow for seeing so much in a week the administration organs are commending President Roosevelt for seeing more in less than half the time.

Forty-three more Pulajanes have been benevolently assimilated by General Wood. We must show the Filipino heathen what a goodly thing this Christmas spirit of ours really is.

If there are any cabinet positions Mr. Cortelyou will not be called upon to fill it would seem that Mr. Loeb is entitled to one of them by reason of his many and consistent vicarious sacrifices.

How they complained when a lot of people wanted a dollar which the protestants claimed was 50 per cent fiat! And how those same protestants now ask for an asset currency dollar that is all fiat!

By the way, if a dollar note issued by a bank and backed by nothing tangible is good for one hundred cents, how much would a dollar bill issued by the government and backed by the nation's wealth be worth?

An eastern judge has decided that a turtle is an animal. The Minneapolis Journal remarks that it looks like a bug. However that may be, it moves with all the incredible swiftness of a republican revision of the tariff.

There is a vague suspicion that a lot of steam shovels that were working like mad during the three days that President Roosevelt was on the isthmus, shoveled no dirt before and have shoveled none since that historic visit.

Postmaster General Cortelyou insists on business policies in the conduct of the postoffice department. It will be remembered that Mr. Cortelyou managed the republican national campaign along very peculiar "business lines."

Representative Murdock of Kansas declares that there is a steal of at least 30 per cent in the amount the government pays the railroads for carrying the mails. Representative Murdock must be striving for a reputation as a conservative.

The sugar consumers of the country have been fined about one pound of sugar in the dollar's worth in order to punish the sugar trust for rebating. It will appear on the court records, however as a fine of \$168,000 against the sugar trust.

The Washington Times having remarked that "B. S." stands for Bellamy Storer and also Big Stick, the Houston Post naively inquires: "Is that all?" Can it be possible that the Post is impelled to make the inquiry by reason of the headache?

Among other advice given by the Topeka Herald to theatre-goers is this: "Don't comment on the performance while it is in progress." That is good advice. One can comment on the average play to much better advantage by retiring to some secluded spot.

Some one objects to the income tax on the ground that "it would develop a nation of liars and perjurers." Tax dodging must have become chronic if we have to abandon a just system of taxation to keep the tax dodger from perjuring himself.

An inquirer asks whether war is a necessary factor in the progress of civilization. No. A civilization which has to be preserved by an occasional resort to battle is not worth preserving. It puts man a little lower than the brute to assume that he can not develop except through the process of killing somebody else.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

J. F. Buchheit, Lancaster, Pa.—Enclosed thirty-five primary pledges.

Magnus Johnson, Bishop Hill, Ill.—Enclosed find eight signers to the primary pledge.

Michael C. Cogan, Bayonne City, New Jersey.—Enclosed find my primary pledge.

Samuel Ogilby, Neff, Ohio.—I have been a democrat all my life, cast my first vote for Horace Greeley for president. Being a coal miner, I well see that we never needed government control or ownership as much as we do now. This is true in eastern Ohio, as the operators will give the foreign laborer the best show and crowd his mines with cheap labor so as to make the American laborer leave. Good wishes for you and Hearst.

Frank H. Copley, Unadilla, Neb.—Please enroll my name on the primary pledge list. I am in favor of this plan. If the money of the United States treasury was used in buying railroads at home instead of throwing it in the ditch down on the isthmus we would be more prosperous.

J. T. Holdridge, Hoyt, I. T.—It is with great pleasure that I was, at last night's meeting of our club, directed to send to you the names of our democratic club members to go on the primary pledge as true democrats. You will find enclosed a list of seventy-three names which you can put on your list as "true blue." Last night when we opened our club for volunteers to enlist for the war, or for all time to come, the first man to subscribe was a republican of forty-eight years of high standing. The Hoyt Democratic club endorses The Commoner as the national official organ and commends the work of education being accomplished by it. Please send me a few subscription cards and some blank subscription lists.

Joseph M. Theiser, Sheboygan, Wis.—Please send me a few copies of The Commoner for distribution. We elected our assemblymen, congressmen and sheriff and carried the whole city by a nice majority for all candidates. Our congressman was elected in the district by 8,900 plurality. Republicans barely carried the county. Their majorities being reduced from 2,000 to 300.

A. L. Foley, Eller, Ky.—I have been reading your paper for nearly two years and find it to be one of the best in the world. I am disappointed if I do not read one every week. I am a democrat and a strong one. I want my name enrolled on the primary pledge.

Charles Dotts, Philadelphia, Pa.—Enclosed you will find pledge signed. I have been a voter for over fifty years and to my recollections have never missed a primary election. I was a democrat when it was worth a man's life to announce in public that he was a democrat. I was threatened with hanging to the next lamp post and yet, after passing the three-score-and-ten allotted to man, I am alive and healthy.

S. O. Metz, Mannington, W. Va.—Find enclosed forty signatures to the primary pledge; all old time democrats. Let Commoner readers take courage in this work and in 1908 the victory will be in favor of popular government.