

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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1907. And we wrote it right the very first time.

"Bryce, M. P.," will look good as Ambassador Bryce.

The doctrine of "lese majeste" seems to be taking root in American soil.

The way to win a victory for democratic principles in 1908 is to begin now.

Simon Guggenheim will succeed to the seat now filled by Senator Tom Patterson.

Some congressmen who complain that they do not get enough salary do not earn any at all.

"The Woman in the Case" seems to have been unusually busy in diplomatic circles lately.

A cursory reading of the sporting pages will reveal a large number of pennant winning base ball teams right now.

The asbestos lined Santa Claus and the incandescent light have done much to decrease the Christmas casualty list.

By this time the springs under the seat on the "water wagon" are either riding awfully hard or very comfortably.

President Roosevelt's "ineffective chaos" makes Grover Cleveland's "inocuous desuetude" look like a 1906 calendar.

"The Christmas trade of 1906 broke the record," says a commercial agency. Shake, Record; we know how it feels.

A congress whose individual members were paid according to the services they rendered to the country might be worth trying.

If it is hard work to stick to that good resolution it is a sure sign that it is the very resolution you ought to stick to most loyally.

The Review of Reviews says Butte is "flowerless, godless, grassless." But Butte is prepared to "copper" all such "knocks" as that.

The Norwegian parliament might offer another one to the gentleman who can patch it up between the president and Senator Foraker.

Fortunately the social intrigue which resulted in Minister Durand's recall was not followed by a publication of private correspondence.

In the meanwhile a lot of sadly defeated "standpat" congressmen are wondering if they will be able to survive as long proportionately as Mr. Hicks of Bakersfield.

The French secretary of war has taken flight in a dirigible balloon. This may portend a resignation from Secretary Taft or the manufacture of a record-breaking balloon.

Battles, military and political, are won by long preparation. Democracy should begin now the work of organization and preparation in order to insure victory next year.

Mr. Harriman is now engaged in an effort to turn the course of the Colorado river. This will be a small job compared to turning the tide of opposition to railroad control.

It seems that Mr. Harriman has shoved Mr. Morgan over into the "ten, twent', thirt," class, or at least reduced him to the "chaser number" on the financial vaudeville circuit.

The list of the congressmen who voted against the salary increase does not include the names of all the congressmen who believe they are already receiving sufficient compensation.

Emperor William is now declaiming on the importance of good cooks. It is time for the cooks to rise up and point to the importance of having good things to cook provided by the head of the house.

David Graham Phillips declares that one per cent of the people of the United States control 99 per cent of the wealth. And the one per cent seems to think its membership has a vested right in the 99 per cent.

RENEWALS

The subscriptions of those who became subscribers with the first issue of The Commoner and have renewed at the close of each year, expire with this issue. In order to facilitate the work of changing and re-entering the addresses upon our subscription books and mailing lists and obviate the expense of sending out personal statements announcing that renewals were due, subscribers are urgently requested to renew with as little delay as possible. The work of correcting the stencils entails an enormous amount of labor and the publisher asks subscribers to assist as much as possible by making their renewals promptly. The corrected expiration usually appears on the wrapper of the second issue after renewal is received.

A Harvard expedition has started out to explore "No Man's Land" in South America. The chances are that when they reach it they will discover pre-emption notices stuck up by Mr. Rockefeller or Mr. Harriman.

Yale is offering for sale a defunct female seminary bequeathed to it by a former Yale graduate. Several other universities not defunct have already been sold at private sale to eminent gentlemen not yet deceased.

Those Minnesotans seem to be laboring under the delusion that they really have some right to a voice in the matter of what dividends they should be compelled to pay to the eminent financiers who are exploiting the railroads.

Chicago's health commissioner avers that if the provisions of the pure food law are rigorously carried out boiled rice will be the only food that can be legally eaten. We'll still stick to the soft boiled eggs fresh from the country.

The eminent statisticians of the Dun commercial agency have at last discovered that it costs more to live now than it formerly did. The discovery is very much belated, several millions of American housewives having beat the statisticians to it.

The German ambassador at Washington has had his salary increased \$4,000 a year on account of the increased cost of living in the United States. This fact is respectfully referred to the government statisticians who have been insisting that the cost of living has not kept pace with the increased wages.

It seems that just as soon as it dawned upon the railroad managers that their failure to deliver coal was increasing the demand for government ownership, they found a way to break the coal famine. It is wonderful what can be done when self-interest demands it.

The Birmingham Age-Herald declares that "the average hodcarrier is miles above Count Boni in morals and commonsense, too." Why should the Age-Herald insult the hard working hodcarriers by mentioning them in the same breath with this person?

The attention of Senator Foraker is called to the case of another eminent and ambitious gentleman who corralled the southern negro delegates to a republican national convention, only to have another equally eminent and ambitious gentleman decoy them away.

Having been frozen out of King Leopold's good thing in the Congo, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan feels it to be his religious duty to protest against the barbarities being practised in that far-off country. It is wonderful what a good conscience-rouser this being "frozen out" is.

The New York Tribune is deprecating the destruction of American forests. The Tribune, by the way, is a "standpatter" that upholds the tariff which places a premium on the destruction of American forests. It might be well for the editors of the Tribune to get together.

Noting increased trouble in titled marital circles the New York Commercial observes: "Perhaps a clean, decent American will get a chance now." We have not noticed any disposition on the part of clean, decent American gentlemen to complain about their marital chances.

A New York state senator having acknowledged that it cost him \$35,000 to be elected to any office paying \$750 a year, the Sioux City Tribune observes that "there are many men with whom the compensation attached to office is not a first consideration." Does the Tribune mean also to exclude perquisites?

"WE ARE SEVEN"

When Bellamy Storer was added to the list of public men who have been denounced as falsifiers by President Roosevelt, the list included just enough to remind one of the poem which was one of the lessons in Dr. McGuffey's old "Third Reader," and entitled "We Are Seven." The Albany Argus has been reviewing the matter for the purpose of classifying, if possible, the different kinds of "liars" mentioned by the president and discovers that Judge Parker was "an atrocious liar," that Mr. Whitney was "a deliberate liar," that Mr. Chandler was "a deliberate and unqualified liar," that Mr. Bowen was "a disingenuous liar," that Mr. Wallace was "an utter liar," that Mr. Shields was "an inventive liar," and that Mr. Storer was "a peculiarly perfidious liar." It was a prophet of old who exclaimed in his haste that "all men are liars," but it seems that he was in too much of a hurry to catalogue and classify them. Mr. Roosevelt seems to have found the time to at least make a beginning on the work of classification.

STILL GROPING IN DARKNESS

The Sioux City, Iowa, Journal still gropes in the darkness when it tackles the money question. Referring to the shortage in subsidiary coins, and the refusal of the secretary of the treasury to buy bullion silver because the price asked is, in his opinion, too high, the Journal says: "There are now in the vaults of the treasury millions of coined silver dollars which have never been used * * * Why should not Uncle Sam use these idle silver dollars for which there is no demand by recoining them into halves, quarters and dimes for which there is demand?"

The answer to that is easy. Uncle Sam does not do it because those silver dollars are not idle but are kept as security for silver certificates issued against them; and for the further reason that it would seem very foolish to further reduce the supply of legal tender money right now when the president and many of the republican leaders are inclined to listen to the demand for an increased money supply and give the people a currency based on nothing after decrying for years what they called a currency based on "50 per cent of value and 50 per cent of wind." Can the financial editor of the Journal repeat the old monetary table as found in "Ray's Third Part of Arithmetic?"