

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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No matter how pure the food is, it should be thoroughly masticated.

To Senator Foraker. "You may get 'em, but can you keep 'em?" Russell A. Alger.

If everybody has to pay fare there is no reason why the rate should not be reduced.

The railroads wound up the old year and began the new year in a very bloody way.

Mr. Rockefeller seems to have acquired the press agent habit in its most virulent form.

Manufacturers of adulterated food products are also bemoaning the interference with vested rights.

Mr. George W. Perkins will be excused if he says a few more real mean things about the "muck rakers."

Mr. Guggenheim will not join in the demand for an increase of a paltry \$2,500 a year in the senatorial salary.

Justice Harlan says the country has not outgrown the constitution. It seems that it has merely outrun it.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish declares that any woman may dress well on \$5,000 a year or even less. Most of them do.

The next time the paper trust is knocked out it should be by a revision of the tariff schedule that makes a paper trust possible.

The height of sarcasm seems to have been reached when Philadelphia expressed pity for San Francisco in her graft troubles.

The pure food law is now in force, but it would be well to continue to avoid the bulged cans and the highly colored extracts.

Governor Pennypacker excuses the graft in Pennsylvania on the ground that the people have so much money they will not miss it.

When Sir Thomas Lipton arrives he should investigate that complaint coming from Washington concerning the White House "teas."

An exchange mentions the "entente cordiale" between Senator Foraker and Secretary Taft. From this distance it looks like a cake of ice.

Secretary Shaw insists that the treasury department has never gone to the relief of the stock gamblers. It was not necessary, when the stock gamblers knew the welcome awaiting them when they called on the treasury department.

Mr. Rockefeller started the new year by letting go of \$3,000,000. Prior to this, however, a lot of us let loose of it first—a little at a time.

Dr. McGee describes Mr. Rockefeller as "the incarnation of concentrated effort." That sounds much better than some descriptions we have heard.

If Governor Hughes lives up to his advance notices he is going to create a lot of trouble for the eminent gentlemen who paid the expenses.

Mr. Bryce might not cut as much ice in Washington society as Sir James Bryce, but he would attract more attention from the people at large.

Sir Thomas Lipton says the American people are making money by "leaps and bounds." He must have been watching some of our dodging politicians.

Why should Mr. Rockefeller take a gloomy view of 1907 just after that Ohio court decided that the conviction of the Standard Oil company was wrong?

The Texas railroad commission has ordered a reduction of twenty per cent in Pullman rates. The porter and the vacant upper berth have not yet been disturbed.

Having been knocked out by the anti-trust law the paper trust proceeds to keep right on doing business in the same old way but under a different method.

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 the last issue in January. 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.

It is reported that Mr. Harriman says he would give up all of his wealth if he could. If he can not let go of his own accord there are plenty who will help him.

Philadelphia had a "mummers' parade" on New Year's eve. Political conditions in Philadelphia indicate that the city has a similar parade every municipal election day.

The Washington Post seems inclined to the view that the child labor evil can be investigated and remedied with the investigator sitting in an upholstered easy chair in a palatial office.

Mrs. Russell Sage says she can find plenty of opportunities for charity without going outside of New York. This may be a pointer for the prosperity shouters to consider.

A Boston minister declares that he can bring the dead to life. He should be invited to try his hand on some of the promises contained in the last republican national platform.

It will be noted by careful observers that the new schemes for "secure" life insurance are advanced by the same gentlemen who were behind the old and discredited schemes.

About the year 1887 John William Austin was a resident of Nebraska. His relatives in Scotland have not heard from him for many years. He is about forty-five years of age. If this reaches the eye of Mr. Austin or that of any one able to give information concerning him, he or they will confer a great favor by writing to Richard Malone, 81 Broomlands St., Paisley, Scotland.

A captain of finance declares that he would spend all he has to rehabilitate Governor Higgins. We do not know how much the captain has, but will cheerfully admit that it would take it.

The report that a Kansas woman found \$500 in bills nailed between a couple of pieces of board she was splitting for kindling will not phase us. We can see right through that little scheme.

The intimation that the lack of coal cars might induce more people to advocate government ownership was immediately followed by the sudden discovery of a lot of available cars suited to carrying coal.

Count Boni's election to the French chamber has been declared valid. Probably on the assumption that having lost the power to buy another election with married money he is entitled to hold the one already bought.

The old year wound up with a horrible railroad accident, and the new year was ushered in with one even more horrible. Our annual slaughter on the railroads is equal to our total losses in the Spanish-American war.

Mr. Perkins, recently indicted by a New York grand jury, asserts that President Cassatt died of a broken heart—"hounded to death by iconoclasts." Does Mr. Perkins dub "iconoclasts" all those who insist on stopping graft in high places?

Seats on the Chicago Board of Trade declined from \$5,000 to \$2,000 during 1906. It is not generally believed that senatorial seats showed any such marked decline. The ruling market price for senatorial seats, however, is never publicly quoted.

The people of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine have long had trouble with the B. & M. In the west Nebraska and Iowa have long had trouble with another B. & M. President Roosevelt was merely falling in line with a large number of his countrymen when he accumulated a bunch of trouble with B. & M.

The difference between Mr. Perkins and President Cassatt was in part as follows: President Cassatt was opposed to graft and did his best to wipe it out. Mr. Perkins switched \$800,000 worth of bonds to deceive investigators, besides doing several other things that President Cassatt would have scorned to do.

Mr. Richard L. Metcalfe, our associate editor, has just published a little volume entitled "Of Such is the Kingdom." It is a reprint of the nature studies which have appeared in The Commoner from time to time over his signature. To those who have read them, they need no praise; to those who have not read them, The Commoner commends them as soothing, strengthening and inspiring. The articles are really heart talks and explain the secret of Mr. Metcalfe's success as a journalist. He knows human nature and is universal in his sympathies.

A PATHETIC APPEAL

The editor of The Commoner has received the following pathetic anonymous appeal which was also mailed to every member of congress:

"For heaven's sake stop Shaw's inflating the currency on a rising price index. He's but licensing drummers to book orders for industrial stagnation. The dollar is growing cheaper every month, yet he inflates the currency. We already have the sixty-cent dollar Bryan wanted in 1896—that's cheap enough; stop Shaw. The interest rate is the specific safety valve—our only safeguard from expansion, explosion, collapse, stagnation. Stop Shaw's screwing down the safety valve! See Bradstreet's of November 10, (Price index November 1, 8.7409; October 1, 8.5480; November 1, 1905, 8.2097; July 1, 1904, 7.6318; July 1, 1896, 5.7019; January 1, 1892, 8.1382). Money is the cheapest since greenback days. 8.3333 is cheap enough. He should contract the currency, but for heaven's sake stop Shaw's inflating the currency until the price index turns downward."

Does it not seem strange that the very men who were so afraid of inflation ten years ago are so anxious for it now. They were afraid of the substance when more primary money was demanded and now they are crying for the shadow in the form of an asset currency.