

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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The "freak legislator" is now having his inning.

Child labor is not a necessity. It is merely the result of greed and avarice.

An exchange declares that Mr. Guggenheim has purchased senatorial honors. Honors?

Great battles are won by thorough preparation. Get ready now for the battle of 1908.

Mr. Dinkey now becomes head of the steel trust. But the steel trust is no "dinkey" affair.

The block system is not rendered infallible by the employment of blockheads to operate it.

Of course that earthquaked Jamaica city will ginger up and get back into line without loss of time.

That Ohio grand jury indicted the Standard Oil company on 959 counts. Add the digits together.

The railroad managers should be notified that they can not remedy the car shortage evil with a hose.

King Leopold is another eminent gentleman who is complaining about attacks on "vested rights."

A lot of grave and reverend senators will not again stub their gouty toes against that LaFollette nail.

The Commoner has had sufficient experience with its seventh year to know that it likes its first rate.

Governor Hughes is doing things calculated to make the corporations that elected him talk about "ingratitude."

Just imagine with what joy President Roosevelt would discharge some senators "without honor" if he only could.

First it was "subsidy." Now it is "subvention." And at all times, under any name, it has been just plain "steal."

Colorado legislators indignantly deny that they were bribed. They got the money before they became legislators.

Mark Twain says he is not going to Bermuda for rest, change or health. Perhaps he is on the scent of a new joke.

The James J. Hill press bureau has the Rockefeller publicity bureau backed up against the ropes and gasping for breath.

Mr. Addicks received two votes for senator in the Delaware legislature. It takes some men a long time to earn the money.

"Coal must move," declares the president. It could move in quicker, but we object to any greater haste in its moving out.

Mr. New is now chairman of the republican national committee, but doubtless Mr. New will continue to use the old fryingpan.

The price of gasoline has been raised a cent a gallon. Chicago University must be well endowed, no matter what the sacrifice.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish declares that if a woman is careful she can dress on \$5,000 a year. A great many careful women dress well on much less.

An effort is being made to introduce American cigarettes in China. If anything will put an end to the Chinese immigration evil that will.

It would take a wonderful lot of work to build enough tank cars to carry all the water that has been injected into American railway stocks.

Some of these days the railroads may decide that it is cheaper to protect the lives of passengers than it is to replace the smashed equipment.

Secretary Root says the country must come to "a maximum and minimum tariff policy." This is calculated to make Secretary Shaw quiver with rage.

Mark Twain declares that the American people desire a monarchy, and it is just about as funny as most of Mark's recent outbursts of humor.

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.

A lot of republican legislation is cavorting around with a republican brand that is not quite large enough to cover up the old democratic brand.

For the first time in a great many years the members of the interstate commerce commissioners are giving evidence of trying to earn their salaries.

The republican leader of the Massachusetts legislature is named Turtle. He must be the gentleman in charge of republican revision of the tariff.

If that Brownsville matter is not soon settled the railroads will serve notice on Senator Foraker that they are about to secure another champion.

The Czar of Russia says he notes a "distinct improvement in public order." The terrorists express a willingness to keep right on improving it, too.

The people who are gravely discussing whether it was an apple or a lemon that Eve handed Adam are convincing a great many of us that it was a chestnut.

Employees are rapidly coming to discount the assistance of representatives of the corporations who protest against "interference with the rights of the workingman."

Mr. Guggenheim will be excused for hoping that the Brownsville incident will occupy the entire attention of the senate during the next six and one-half years.

Perhaps President Roosevelt could get another rise out of Senator Foraker by appointing some colored man to the postmastership of the senator's home city.

Of course Mr. Rockefeller's gloomy view of the future is not the result of pondering on the possibility of being heavily fined on every count in that indictment.

The discovery of some letters written by Captain Kidd has not startled the world. We have some pirates today who have backed Kidd's reputation off the boards.

The alfalfa plant has been adopted as Oklahoma's state flower. Here's hoping that Oklahoma's democracy is as well rooted as the well established field of alfalfa.

The Pittsburg Dispatch says that reform is the watchword of the Pennsylvania legislature. That is good. It has been a byword in Pennsylvania about long enough.

The victim of that Iowa mob was a white man, therefore Messrs. Foraker and Spooner will not proceed to make the incident a basis for throwing a few political fits.

The Denver Republican bids the earthquaked city of Arica, Chile, be of good cheer because it has no Reuf or Schmitz. Let it rejoice all the more. It has no Guggenheim.

It must make some of the old time "populists" rub their eyes and wonder if they are awake or dreaming when they read the inaugural messages of some of the new governors.

We gather from the interviews with prominent railroad managers that the shippers are to blame for the car shortage because they insist on shipping too much all at once.

It would seem that Mr. Fairbanks is content to wait and make the second bid for the colored delegates. By the time the convention meets Mr. Foraker will have tired himself out.

"An adequate navy is the best guarantee of peace," says President Roosevelt. "Minding your own business" is another way which time has demonstrated to be quite efficacious.

The railroads have pretty generally granted a ten per cent increase in wages, but that is such a slight evaporation of the moisture in the stocks that the stockholders will not notice it.

Senator Tillman says that every senator knows that negroes are not allowed to drink at the bars in Washington's best hotels. Of course the senators know it only by hearsay.

A couple of French duelists made the mistake of using American revolvers recently. The result was a badly wounded Frenchman, and that is quite contrary to the French code duello.

It transpires that an alligator on the isthmus came near eating a congressman during the late official junket to the canal site. After all there may be something good about that territory.

If President Roosevelt officiates as judge at the proposed Jamestown exposition international baby show the bravery of the feat will make that San Juan hill stunt look like playing jackstraws.

The city which offered to furnish the most free gas secured the next international airship race meet. Strange to say Washington, D. C., with its wonderful advantages did not compete.

The money that a battleship like the "Dreadnaught" would cost would build about 12,000 box cars, or 16,000 coal cars. And we need box cars and coal cars much more than we need a "Dreadnaught."

And to think that ninety-five Japanese attendants of San Francisco's public schools raised all that fuss. Still people wonder at the size of a race problem that comprehends 9,000,000 negroes.

The chief difference between the sub-treasury plan advocated by the Omaha platform and the asset currency plan advocated by present day financiers is this. The Omaha plan contemplated the issuing of credit notes on farm products, and the asset currency plan contemplates the issuing of credit notes on waste paper.