

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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All roads lead to Harriman.

Those who "stand by the president" must be extremely agile.

Block signals disregarded result in black signals of mourning.

Battles are won by preparation. Begin now for the battle of ballots in 1908.

Anti-lobby laws will not be necessary when lobby-proof legislators are elected.

The Harriman portrait has crowded the Bishop Potter portrait to the "dead rack."

A list of indicted gentlemen sounds very much like a roll call of the "captains of finance."

Chancellor Day says wages are too high in this country. The chancellor works for a salary.

The car shortage can not be remedied by adding tank cars to the equipment of the stockholders.

A lot of special interests are shocked to discover that Governor Hughes actually meant what he said.

Mr. Rockefeller says he remembers only the good. It is easy to forget many things if one has the money.

The telegraph columns of the daily papers look like printed reports of death and injuries in a big battle.

The Raisulizing of Morocco seems to have been stopped, but the Harrimanizing of the United States goes merrily on.

Having raised their own salaries 50 per cent, perhaps the congressmen will consider the claims of the underpaid postal clerks.

First they called it "subsidy." Then it passed under the name of "subvention." Subsidy and subvention are synonyms for stealing.

Chancellor Day's recent bid should be good for several large slices of endowment from "big men" who are in charge of "big things."

Nebraska proposes without delay to get in line with the progressive states that have already enacted efficacious laws against child slavery.

When a mechanic finds that his wages will not pay his expenses he is forced to reduce expenses. It is different with a congressman.

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A theatrical manager says that only one drama in fifty wins. This, however, is not an explanation of why we always see the forty-nine first.

A Sioux City woman who sues for a divorce has filed a plea written in rhyme. Naturally the husband indicates that he will make no defense.

By carefully avoiding the republican national platform upon which he was elected President Roosevelt manages to advance many popular policies.

Delaware's new senator is the head of the largest canning factory in the world. Canned legislation, however, is going out of fashion in this country.

Chicago spent so much money on the Shea trial that she feels as if a verdict of guilty should have been rendered in spite of the evidence and the facts.

The Colorado river is again pouring into the Salton sea, and Mr. Harriman can not stop it. It is running in almost as fast as the water into the Harriman stocks.

Secretary Root says the Washington newspaper men sometimes get things right. A lot of officeholders might well profit by the example of the newspapermen.

The lower house of the Colorado legislature has passed an anti-cartoon bill. Men who object to cartoons usually have a reason which they do not care to make public.

Strange that no railroad manager has defended the car shortage by pointing to the fact that increased cars for passenger service would simply mean more casualties.

The Shah of Persia has put a public telephone in the city park so his subjects can call him up. Watchful soldiers will see to it that one call is the limit for any one subject.

The spirit of investigation seems to be responsible for a very mysterious illness that is driving our captains of industry and finance abroad just when the grand juries meet.

Consuelo, Duchess of Marlborough, pays \$100,000 a year for the privilege of living apart from her husband. At this distance it looks like she had secured a splendid bargain.

Farmers complain that the car shortage prevents them from marketing their grain. Mr. Harriman and his colleagues are not complaining about any inability to market water.

Speaker Cannon says the proper policy to pursue is to monopolize the home markets and then capture the trade of the world. And William McKinley scarcely six years dead!

The price of a battleship like the "Dreadnaught" would pay for the construction of 12,000 box cars, and the country needs box cars much more than it needs new battleships.

The Smoot case, tariff revision, the discovery of the assailant of Billy Patterson, the component parts of the moon are matters that seem to be running a neck-and-neck race for perpetuity.

The Wisconsin railway commission purposes knowing why trains are not on time. If this sort of thing keeps up the railroads will wonder if the people really intend demanding their rights.

Admiral Evans ordered American battleships to do rescue and relief work at Kingston. The newspapers will not print what Admiral Evans said when he heard of Governor Swettenham's action.

The grand jury that indicted John R. Walsh was negligent. It did not apologize for its action like the grand jury did that indicted George W. Perkins. This is discrimination that is reprehensible.

The chaplain of the Colorado legislature returned thanks in the morning invocation that "we are alive, sober and out of jail." But what have the people of Colorado to be thankful for along those lines?

When that forty-six story New York skyscraper is completed Mr. Rockefeller should take office room on the top story. He would have ample time to escape before a process server could mount that high.

Mr. Cortelyou has received the senate committee's "O. K." The insurance magnates who diverted stockholders' money into Mr. Cortelyou's hands may now come forward and demand their vindication.

The railroad managers point with pride to the fact that no single railroad wreck has ever killed as many people as either of the three earthquakes of recent date, San Francisco, Valparaiso and Kingston.

President Roosevelt wants two warships of the "Dreadnaught" type as peacemakers. What he means is pacemakers. But the pace threatens to grow too swift for the people who have to put up the money.

In Russia the imperialists kill all the candidates for the douma who are popular with the people, and the terrorists kill all candidates who are popular with the imperialists. The new douma will be the survival of the lucky.

The Nebraska reporter who found the skulls of some pre-historic men and is writing stories about them is fortunate in one respect. The men he is writing about will never come to the front with the complaint that they were misquoted.

The powder trust seems to have made the mistake of charging this government more for powder than it charged foreign customers. It should have confined itself to robbing the people as individuals and contributing to the g. o. p. campaign fund.

Owing to increased volume of work and increased cost of living, railroad men have been granted an increase of 10 per cent in wages. Having the power to fix their own wages the congressmen went the railroad employes 40 per cent better.

The report of mammoth alligators brought back by the congressmen who visited the isthmus indicates that the buffet cars and the ship's lockers were equipped with something different from the usual brands. Heretofore snakes only have been seen.

Henry S. Persse, Littleton, Colorado, asks for "the Southern Confederacy version of 'Columbia.'" If any reader of The Commoner can supply this information he will confer a favor by sending the same to Mr. Persse.

A St. Louis physician has discovered an anesthetic that takes away the sensation of pain without rendering the subject unconscious. The public would like to take it while the railroad managers are explaining the reasons for car shortage and wrecks.

One evening recently the Cedar Rapids, Ia., Gazette contained this paragraph: "It is an extremely difficult thing to get a man hung in Iowa." And the next evening the Gazette printed a couple of columns about the lynching of a wife murderer at Charles City, Ia.

The Minneapolis Journal dubs ex-Senator Pfeffer a crank because he advocated the plan of having the government issue money on wheat in store. What does the Journal call those eminent lawmakers who advocate issuing money on water-soaked stocks in store?

A 50 per cent increase in salaries for congressmen was predicated on the increased cost of living. Congressmen who support a tariff that means constantly increasing cost of foodstuffs and clothing should now take steps to have wages of the mechanics increased a similar amount.

When Governor Swettenham put a stop to Admiral Davis's mission of mercy he did not do much to hold aloft the banner which bears that more or less familiar inscription "blood is thicker than water"—the banner which has been vigorously waved in certain quarters during recent years.

Merle D. Vincent, republican, member of the Colorado legislature, was the only member of his party that had the courage to denounce the barter and sale of a United States senatorship. Mr. Vincent in the legislature is a much bigger man than Simon Guggenheim ever will be in the senate of the United States.