

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Thorough organization is a long step towards victory.

The lame duck industry is growing in this country.

The bouquet handed to Mr. Shonts was a lemon when it was handed to Mr. Wallace.

If King Leopold is wise he will put that Congo snap in the hands of a holding company.

That Brownsville affair seems to have been fully as black as it has been made yellow.

The "theatrical trust" may claim to be a good one if it means a curtailment of the output.

If Mr. Guggenheim thinks he has purchased an honor he ought to get a new dictionary.

The interstate commerce commission has just handed Miss Tarbell a handsome endorsement.

It seems that Mr. Depew did not devote his temporary retirement to hunting up new jokes.

One-third of the Panama appropriation spent, and still hunting for a man to take charge of the work.

Mr. Shonts should give information as to how he escaped being thrust into the "We are Seven" class.

It seems that Mr. Shonts had the foresight to submit his explanations before submitting the resignation.

There is one good feature about the newspaper reports of the Thaw case. You do not have to read them.

The free seed distribution will continue, but despite this fact graft seed is not as fertile as it used to be.

"Swettenham is a type," says the Chicago Tribune. Perhaps, but he is not built on the "point system."

The joint postal commission starts off well by making its first recommendation to the effect that the rate paid the railroads for transporting the mails be reduced to an equitable amount.

Every time we recall Swettenham we also recall what Commodore Vandervilt said of one of his sons-in-law.

The news that Senator LaFollette is a vegetarian will be a great surprise to several eminent gentlemen who have bumped against the man from Wisconsin. They have been supposing that he dined on iron filings and drank red blood.

## The Commoner.

Mayor Tom Johnson counts that day lost whose low descending sun sees no injunction busted, or no new one begun.

St. Valentine's day will afford Senator Foraker and the president another opportunity to exchange pleasantries.

The last Gridiron Club dinner seems to have afforded several gentlemen an opportunity for indulging in red-hot roasts.

In 1925 a large number of Joseph Benson Forakers will be just about a year too young to vote as their namesake talked.

In view of all the facts the least Mr. Shonts could do was to declare the president wholly right on the ship subsidy proposition.

A number of congressmen lost in last November's shuffle are now being cared for by the clever distributor of the political "plums."

The Roosevelt "Third Term League" is not paying a very high compliment to the sincerity of the gentleman it professes to admire.

If the trusts and corporations are paying Chancellor Day for those speeches it is time that their affairs be put in charge of guardians.

The stage might be "reformed" by first reforming the people whose patronage makes it possible to profitably present plays that need reforming.

The Atlanta Constitution declares the Georgia peach crop uninjured. Bracing winter weather has a beneficial effect on the Nebraska "peach" crop.

Carnegie lake, near Princeton, means that the camera fiends will have more opportunities to snap a large, fat gentleman who sits armed with a bamboo rod.

The Filipinos are not investigating the Standard Oil company, and there can no longer be a doubt that the Filipinos are entitled to a specific promise.

Just as soon as the Brownsville matter is settled something else will be sprung to keep the senate from taking action in the interest of the whole people.

The Louisville Courier-Journal explains the ship subsidy bill in a few words. "It is not to build up trade, but to give ship owners a profit without trade."

The fact that the government is holding Mr. Rockefeller's new wig until he pays duty on an increased invoice, means a lot to those of us who must use his oil.

Chancellor Day never loses an opportunity to demonstrate the truth of the old scriptural quotation: "The ox knoweth its owner, and the ass its master's crib."

It is reported that King Edward has forgiven William Waldorf Astor. If this is an assurance that William will remain abroad we hasten to thank Edward Rex.

The Brownsville incident may seem to be occupying all of the senate's time, but do not worry. The river and harbor pork barrel is receiving the needed amount of attention.

Confronted by Minnesota's determination to keep him from pumping \$60,000,000 of water into his railroad stocks, Mr. James J. Hill is now a rabid opponent of state's rights.

Being an expert statistician General Grovesnor will have no difficulty in telling us just how much he has missed by not having the salary bill passed about twenty years ago.

It remains to be seen whether Uncle Sam can hire competent men to manage canal affairs faster than they can be employed away from him by the interests opposed to the canal.

Talk about reporters violating confidence. Just think of that Roosevelt-Foraker incident at a newspaper dinner, and not a newspaper man present who will say a word about it!

As John Sherman said about resumption, "the way to regulate is to regulate" and it must be plain to every intelligent man that if the railroads can not be regulated by the people then they will be owned by the people.

A commission has succeeded in averting a tariff war between Germany and the United States. This simply means that the tariff barons can go right ahead exploiting home consumers.

The old-time populist who sprung the Ocala platform on a Nebraska republican county convention and had it adopted with a whoop, has a right to demand admittance to the humorist class.

Congressmen who have had a 50 per cent increase in wage to offset the increased cost of living should now take cognizance of the workingmen who are not able to enforce a wage increase.

Senator-elect Guggenheim is such a methodical business man that he will have to be careful when appearing before the bar of the senate with his credentials. He might submit the receipted bills.

Men who strike for an increase of 10 per cent in wages are enjoined, guarded by the militia and cited for contempt. Congressmen avoid all these things by merely dodging a vote but getting the money.

It has been just about two years since the Panama canal was to be constructed without delay, and here we are waiting for the appointment of somebody to succeed somebody so something may be done.

Just as soon as a successor can be found for another Panama official we will have some more predictions of speedy accomplishment of the Panama canal work. If predictions were canal dirt ships would be crossing right now.

Admiral Davis seems to be something of a hero himself. He emerges from the Kingston trouble with credit. He has not been misquoted and has said nothing that can be condemned. In short, Admiral Davis has said nothing.

The congressmen have refused further appropriations to develop the frog industry. Just because they have raised their own salaries the congressmen need not imagine that all the rest of us have as many greenbacks as we want or need.

The government statisticians who are endeavoring to make it appear that living expenses have not increased faster than wages should confer with the congressmen who have secured a 50 per cent increase in wages on account of the increased cost of living.

Governor Higgins of Rhode Island actually wants "Boss" Brayton driven from the state house. It must be that Mr. Higgins actually insists on being governor. If this is true it is the second instance of the kind in many years, Governor Garvin affording the first one.

If Mr. Harriman and other railroad magnates are not more powerful than the authorities, it is very easy to make a demonstration the people will readily understand. We have for many years talked about doing something by way of obtaining relief, but the "captain of industry" continues in the building of plans for oppressing the people, and the people seem more helpless than ever.

The interstate commerce commission in its report concerning the Standard Oil trust says: "Standard buys advertising space in many newspapers which it fills, not with advertisements but with reading matter prepared by agents kept for that purpose and paid at advertising rates as ordinary news." The New York Evening Post says that the public is entitled to know the names of the journals that are subsidized in this manner and demands that the commission make public the names of these papers. Why not?

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 4.