

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., as second-class mail matter

One Year - - - \$1.00 Three Months - - - 25c
 Six Months - - - .50 Single Copy - - - 5c
 In Clubs of five or more, Sample Copies Free.
 Per Year - .75 Foreign Postage 52 Cents Extra.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Railroad block systems operated by blockheads will not suffice.

It seems that more engineers than dirt are being "moved" in Panama.

It seems that Mr. Harriman squirted those dividends through a hose.

The chief trouble with those railroad "flyers" is that they light too suddenly.

Mark Twain's white dress suit means that he has snubbed the Pittsburg millionaires.

And President Roosevelt advocated the "mollycoddling" of the shipping interests, too.

This two billion dollar congress will be cheap if it persuades the people not to do it again.

With the passage of a largely increased naval appropriation the Japanese war cloud disappeared.

Mr. Rockefeller was up to \$300,000,000, but will probably revise it when the assessor comes around.

Philadelphia has gone back to boss rule. It is much easier to talk reform than it is to practice it.

The King of Serbia announces that he needs money. Now doesn't that make you feel like a king?

By the way, Mr. President, how about those tariff "mollycoddles" who have to be so tenderly nurtured?

Wouldn't some nice young girl make a big hit by posing in the kitchen with her hands in the dishwasher?

The senate listened to Washington's farewell address, just about like it listens to the demands of the people.

Harvard has just beaten Yale at hockey. Great excitement prevails over the prospective jackstraws match.

Smallpox having broken out among the Missouri legislators it is not necessary to enforce the anti-lobby law.

Increasing dividends by going deeper into debt is considered rather dishonest in other than high railroad circles.

If those great railroad managers really want to make progress they will print future stock certificates on sponges.

The sixteen-hour bill for railroad men proposed in Pennsylvania has been laid up for repairs. So have many victims of wrecks caused by the exhaustion of railroad men forced to work long hours.

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"I was touched immediately upon landing," says Ambassador Bryce. Wall street or just common pickpockets?

When Ambassador Bryce arrived in Washington he had great difficulty in recognizing his old friend, the constitution.

It seems that Senator Smoot's vindication was postponed until it could be advantageously used as a campaign document.

It seems that Mr. Harriman was willing to talk as long as he was not required to tell anything he wanted to keep secret.

Ambassador Bryce's salary is equal to that of President Roosevelt. But Ambassador Bryce draws a salary for sawing wood.

Instead of being a billionaire Mr. Rockefeller is only a millionaire three hundred times over. Will somebody please pass the hat.

Dr. Wiley says the only safe kind of whisky is "old whisky in sealed bottles." The moment the seal is broken the safety disappears.

"The tariff is one thing that will not down," says the Birmingham Age-Herald. Correct. We still have to put up for it—and with it.

A Texas negro made \$1,500 on a fifty-acre farm last year, and the Kansas City Post is quite certain he never even heard of the "race problem."

Washington was the richest American of his time, and Mr. Rockefeller is the richest American of his time. Right here, however, the parallel ceases.

President Roosevelt is now asking for more artistic designs on our gold coinage. By the way, what are the designs on the eagles and double eagles?

Chancellor Day doubtless regrets that Mr. Rockefeller with only \$300,000,000 has not received from the world a reward commensurate with his services.

Representative Pollard of Nebraska will be permitted to put it back this year, and get it back next year when the 50 per cent salary increase takes effect.

Mr. Cleveland continues to decry "the wanderings of democracy," as he calls it. The trouble with Mr. Cleveland is that he, not the world, stands still.

"I am willing to tell all I know," declared Mr. Harriman before taking the witness stand. Then Mr. Harriman hastily accumulated a vast volume of ignorance.

The democratic candidate for mayor of Philadelphia received 97,000 votes. The republican candidate had too many friends on the canvassing boards, however.

Poet Laureate Austin will contribute a prose article to the Longfellow memorial services. Alfred is not going to run any risks of comparison if he knows it.

A southern California man has invented a snow shovel. We may now expect a Klondiker to come forward with the model for a new kind of refrigerating machine.

It seems that the railroads are losing a lot of money these days. Not upon the goods hauled, but upon the goods not hauled because of lack of cars and engines.

Secretary Shaw is going to be president of the Carnegie Trust company in New York. Will Uncle Sam ever get tired of paying for the education of financiers?

Governor Guild of Massachusetts calls it "modernization of the tariff." The people who foot the bills are calling the continuance of the tariff a "rank robbery."

Congress has adjourned and the congressmen are paying out railroad fare for homeward bound tickets. It's mighty handy to be able to increase your salary at will.

Only twenty senators remained in the senate chamber on February 22 to hear the reading of Washington's farewell address. One of them read the address and another was the colleague of the reader. The explanation of the other eighteen has not yet arrived.

President Roosevelt has graciously admitted to the Massachusetts legislature that it has a right to petition. It is still denied to employes of the postoffice department.

A package containing \$175,000 worth of stocks was picked up from the pavement in Wall street the other day. It took the sun several hours to dry out the damp spot.

Now that railroad officials are being numbered among the accident victims there is some hope that safety appliances will become more plentiful as well as more efficient.

A London newspaper warns Ambassador Bryce not to be "too easy-going" with President Roosevelt. If necessary Mr. Bryce can call Mayor Schmitz to his assistance.

A lot of big daily newspapers that have been howling for railroad reform are now issuing warning against too much reform. They did not expect to be taken seriously.

Of course the educational institutions supported by Mr. Rockefeller's money will not teach its students to detect when they are being robbed by the Rockefeller methods.

We have forgotten the number of special presidential messages since the first of the year, but whatever the number is it is exceeded by the number of fatal railroad accidents.

Those Cincinnati gentlemen who are going down to the isthmus to see the canal will have to take the sidetrack very frequently to make way for the procession of returning engineers.

The money stolen recently from the sub-treasury at Chicago was in thousand dollar bills. You would better be careful how you change thousand dollar bills for entire strangers.

The total appropriations of the Fifty-ninth congress will aggregate almost two billions of dollars. Speaker Reed would doubtless claim a vindication if he were still with us.

"Mollycoddle" isn't a new word by any means. Roscoe Conkling once applied it to George William Curtis. Besides, a lot of men would rather be called "mollycoddle" than "near-doers."

The Colorado legislature thought for a bit last week that it had adjourned sine die. The excitement was intense, owing to the fact that the limit of per diem pay had not yet been reached.

The report that Wall street is about to start a panic in order to embarrass President Roosevelt need not excite worry. The last panic that Wall street started got away from the starters.

A Kansas professor has located the garden of Eden near Yazoo City, Miss. This evidence of resort to modern press agent methods is an indication that the new south is forging a little ahead.

King Edward clearly overlooked his opportunity when he omitted from his "speech from the throne" all reference to press censorship, designs upon the coins, race suicide and the strenuous life.

The Omaha school director who proposes that all high school girls in that city shall dress alike is predestined to learn something just as soon as the young ladies become acquainted with his scheme.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger has conceived a great idea. It suggests that instead of retiring the public land after the timber has been stolen it would be a good scheme to retire the thieves from circulation.

Philadelphia is worrying over the great increase in her death rate. Nothing to worry about. The "dead ones" in Philadelphia have been casting the deciding votes in Philadelphia elections for a great many years.

With 500 lives lost in three accidents at sea within two weeks, and 400 lives lost inside of three months through railroad accidents, the question of "congested population" seems to be rapidly solving itself.

A Philadelphia reader of the Public Ledger, noticing the absence of the aurora borealis, asks if the electric cars and electric light systems have had anything to do with it. Perhaps it was the water wagon.