

**Paragraphic Punches**

Mr. Rockefeller says he loves his country. Of course he does. So would the rest of us if we owned one.—Houston Post.

The railroad presidents hesitate to visit the president for fear he might have a brainstorm in their presence.—Portland Journal.

A vindicated senator, however, is not altogether in the same class with one who has never required any vindication.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Postmaster General Meyer is now an active member of the cabinet. He has started to play tennis in the White House backyard.—Baltimore Sun.

Japan has ordered 40,000 tons of steel rails from Pittsburg, and Hobson believes they are going to make them into cannon balls.—Fort Worth Record.

"There is now in the country \$1,600,000,000 in gold," says United States Treasurer Treat. Where do they keep it all, do you suppose?—San Antonio Gazette.

The nations of the world are willing enough to discuss disarmament, provided it doesn't interfere in any way with the building of enormous navies.—Kansas City Journal.

A London literary critic thinks that laughter is immoral. Physicians say it is a splendid aid to digestion. Shall we be morally dyspeptic or immorally happy?—Boston Herald.

The five cents denomination of the new Jamestown postage stamps will be adorned with the head of Pocahontas. Now if all her descendants will only buy one.—Atlanta Journal.

One railroad in New York has ordered its trainmen not to try to make up time. It seems to have realized that its passengers would prefer to arrive late than to arrive dead.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

It looks as if President Mellen may have been chosen as an advance agent of the other railroad presidents to go ahead and see that there's no trap door in the White House.—Boston Herald.

Secretary Shaw fears bad times if this criticism of railroads goes on. He seems to fear that forcing corporate retrenchment might cut down the salaries of presidents of trust companies.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Secretary Taft is said to be hunting for a well equipped railroad engineer to handle transportation problems in the Panama canal work—one who will promise faithfully to stick to his job preferred.—Boston Globe.

The head of the Omaha coal combination has been sentenced to six months behind the bars. Slowly but surely it is becoming positively disreputable in this country to fatten on the poor.—Harrisburg Telegraph.

Isn't Mr. Roosevelt, in conferring with the eminent financiers and provincial statesmen over the regulation of the railways, running the risk of coming in contact with a new kind of prevaricator?—Milwaukee News.

Announcement is made that the Hon. Elihu Root and the Hon. William H. Taft have enrolled themselves as members of the National Rifle Association. This is ominous of a joint gunning trip in 1908.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Just whose vindication is most valuable is a question. Executive disapproval vindicates Wood and the court vindicates Koehler. The only party to the proceedings that fails to get a vindication is the court-martial.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The wise woman will call her husband's attention to the fact that enough money has been sayed on fuel in March to buy a very decent looking spring hat; but she will say nothing whatever about the proximity of the ice-taking season.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Beware of the inflammatory reporter, Mr. President. Of course, you are not a man upon whom to waste advice; but the gentlemen of the

press are saying pretty things about you to induce you to "show your hand" in a moment of surprise. All of them have cards up their sleeves. Stick to Loeb. He is believed to have been already valuable as a recoil agency.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A parcel can be mailed from this country to the British colony of Bermuda for three-fourths the postage charged between any two post offices in the United States, and the parcel to Bermuda may go as high as eleven pounds, while the domestic parcel is restricted to four pounds. Some queer things are found in the postal management of the United States.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

**BE A FRIEND TO MAN**

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn  
In the place of their self-content;  
There are souls like stars, that dwell apart  
In a fellowless firmament;  
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths  
Where highways never ran—  
But let me live by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
Where the race of men go by—  
The men who are good and the men who are bad,  
As good and as bad as I.  
I would not sit in the scner's seat,  
Or hurl the cynic's ban—  
Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road,  
By the side of the highway of life,  
The men who press with the ardor of hope,  
The men who are faint with the strife.  
But I turn not away from their smiles nor their tears,  
Both parts of an infinite plan—  
Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.

—Sam Walter Foss.

**THE PRIMARY PLEDGE**

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 13 of this issue.



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