

# The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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Good weather for political "brain storms."

Last call for garden seeds from your congressman.

Salvation is on the free list, but there is a tariff tax on Bibles.

The baseball umpire is the real microbe of "dementia Americana."

Old Boreas umpired an unusual number of baseball games last week.

Ready to contribute your share to the payment of the Standard Oil company's fine?

Mr. Harriman, wealthy though he is, finds lemons at \$200,000 per rather too expensive.

Do you find The Commoner helpful? If so, persuade a fair-minded republican to subscribe.

Somehow or other late frosts and freezes seem never to injure the prune and dried peach crops.

Fire escapes are to be placed on the White House. The front door will continue to be the liar escape.

Secretary Taft treated that Cuban situation very much like a man who expects some votes from that section.

By the way, have you heard anything lately about Mr. Carnegie's offer to finance the Roosevelt campaign in 1904?

A Kansas oil company has been denied the use of the mails. Great idea for a way to make Mr. Rockefeller see a great light.

Editor Harvey's banquet speech is an indication that the Annanias club is about to have a new member shoved into it.

When the tax payers of New York come to pay for those "brain storm" affairs they are going to throw a few financial spasms.

At the worst Mr. Rockefeller may be fined only \$29,000,000, and he can soon make that good by calling on the people at large.

The paper trust which was "put out of business by the administration" seems to have gone right along in utter ignorance of the fact.

"The state's revenues are \$18,000,000 short," complains the Philadelphia Public Ledger. That is because the state is so long on graft.

The continued silence of Mr. Harriman may indicate that he is getting ready to brew another brain storm at the end of Pennsylvania avenue.

The railroads are experiencing great trouble in keeping their dividend declarations from showing that the 2-cent fare laws are not confiscatory.

Mr. Cleveland thinks an insurance president's salary should not be fixed by law. Mr. Cleveland gets \$25,000 a year for thinking such thoughts.

The Louisville Times is pleading for "simplified veracity" at the White House. But wouldn't that mean a dearth of headlines for the dailies?

Mr. Harriman need not worry us about that \$50,000 which he invested so unwisely in 1904. He has been allowed to make it back several times over.

The continued silence of Speaker Cannon may be taken as an indication that he would much prefer being liberally quoted to being sadly defeated.

Every time the Daughters of the American Revolution meet in convention it becomes easier to understand how their forefathers put up such a winning fight.

"The president's friends rally around Taft," says an administration organ. Well, if there are enough to rally all the way around there must be several of them.

The government stopped the Louisiana lottery by forbidding it to use the mails or express. Valuable pointer as to how to put a stop to the Standard Oil lottery.

Despite President Roosevelt's spicy letter there has been no great rush on his part to have the republican campaign committee's books thrown open for public inspection.

Those Oklahoma "cornfield lawyers" have demonstrated that they are "some pumpkins" when it comes to making a constitution that protects the interests of the people.

The Standard Oil company has been convicted on something like 1,100 counts, but the repeal of the imprisonment clause makes the conviction purely a formal affair.

The "thirty-cent meal" that President Roosevelt ate while on the isthmus cost Congressman Rainey \$1.65. Can it be possible that Poultney Bigelow is due for a vindication?

"The Chicago street car system is going to be made better," says a newspaper supporter of Mayor-elect Busse. If there is any change at all made it will have to be for the better.

"Distributor of surplus wealth" is a modern definition. Claude Duval, Three-Fingered-Jack, Dick Turpin and others of their like made a huge mistake in not posing as "equalizers of wealth."

A New York man, aged 82, claims to have read every number of the New York Tribune since its first issue in 1841. During the last thirty-five years he has evidently learned a lot of things that are not true.

If Congressman Pollard of Nebraska thinks his constituents favor the subsidy idea he would do well to study up on some Nebraska subsidy history. Mr. Oxnard might be able to give him some valuable pointers.

Ex-Senator Patterson of Denver has been fined \$1,000 for contempt of the Colorado supreme court, and it seems that he is not satisfied with having his feeling of contempt put on the counter at such a bargain price.

"For you and I, my dear Mr. Harriman, are practical men."—Theodore Roosevelt. Men who are horrified at the thought of a \$5,000,000 fund to defeat Mr. Roosevelt were loud in their praises of the "captains of industry" who raised a considerable sum to elect him.

The Philadelphia Record suggests that President Roosevelt direct Secretary Cortelyou and Treasurer Bliss to publish a detailed account of the receipts and expenditures of the republican national campaign committee. \* This is calculated to make Mr. Cortelyou wriggle if not to talk.

General Leonard Wood, who was a mere physician ten years ago but now a major general in the regular army, is soon to be stationed at Governor's Island. There is good reason for this. General Wood is sent to Governor's Island because it is the best job in the army.

## Paragraphic Punches

It took Taft only a couple of days to fix up Cuba for another year.—Chicago News.

It takes a very thorough education to deprive some people of their natural sense.—New York Press.

The problem is to keep Cuba free without allowing its government to become too free and easy.—Washington Star.

Mr. Roosevelt was prevented by circumstances from applying his great talents as a peacemaker to the Harriman incident.—Washington Star.

George B. Cox, the Cincinnati boss, was robbed in a New York hotel. He has not usually figured at that end of a robbery in Cincinnati.—Baltimore News.

Senator Penrose doesn't deny the dinner, mark you, nor that the wine was good, but he does deny that it affected him that way.—New York Commercial.

San Francisco is going to have more trouble getting her grafters into the penitentiary than she had keeping the Japanese out of her schools.—Washington Post.

The Pittsburg Dispatch says that the immortal twenty-eight are not held up as models of honesty, but simply as "distinguished sons." Have it your way. We merely sought to be polite as possible about it.—Washington Herald.

The Chicago Record-Herald says that Abraham Lincoln would not feel flattered by the claims of many people that they look like him. But if Lincoln were sensitive he would have been heart-broken long ago over the claims of republican newspapers that they thought like him.—Omaha World-Herald.

Mrs. Whitney ought to be on the faculty of the Chicago university. Her notice that it is patriotic to dress extravagantly is a fit idea to come out of such an incubator of queer views as the famous Rockefeller school. But the world is not built on luxury, not even to make business flourish.—Buffalo News.

"If I had my way I would try to put Harriman in the penitentiary for his work in the Alton deal," was certainly a great deal for a man like Senator Cullom of Illinois to say. What assurance can Mr. Rockefeller have now that he may not be slapped on the wrist at any moment by Senator Aldrich?—Kansas City Star.

The utilization of convict labor in the construction of good roads is the thing and the man who thinks out a feasible way will be a benefactor of the nation. It is mercilessly brutal to confine prisoners without work and it is grossly unjust to put them in competition with honest folks outside.—Bloomington Bulletin.

Over in London recently a man slew a prominent citizen, and there was supposed to be a tremendous social sensation back of the affair. The murderer has just been sentenced to death, after a trial which lasted one day and at which he entered a plea of insanity. In certain ways the English are not so slow.—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Kansas newspaper wants to know what is to become of the Philippines. Thousands of people in this country have their theories, but the American public doesn't seem to be worried at all about the proposition, provided we can get rid of this white elephant some way or other without compromising the nation's honor.—Birmingham News.

In 1904 the president writes to Mr. Harriman "It has been a real pleasure to see you this year." The campaign year was, indeed, a pleasant year to see Harriman, who is about the most conspicuous of the heads of great combinations of capital and the possessor of a great private fortune. There was not in the whole country a man whom he could with so little propriety invite to the White House for political conference, none from whom the solicitation or the acceptance of a campaign contribution would have been more flagrantly incompatible with the president's avowed policies and intentions.—New York Times.