

# The Commoner.

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### WHAT A THOUGHT!

The Los Angeles Times says: "John D. Rockefeller will pass down into history as in many respects one of the greatest and most typical of all Americans."

The richest man in all the world—grown rich through the lawlessness of his business transactions—a man who but a few months ago was in hiding and engaged in a successful effort to avoid the officers of the law, bearing writs commanding him to appear in a court of justice and tell the truth!

Yet this man, in the opinion of General Harrison Gray Otis, "will pass down into history as in many respects one of the greatest and most typical of all Americans!"

A typical American, indeed!

What a thought for a gray haired man to seek to impress upon the rising generation!

### CLEAR ON ONE POINT, ANYWAY

The New York Times devotes considerable space to an editorial entitled, "The Delusions of Mr. Bryan," in which editorial it consigns to the tomb Mr. Bryan and the political principles for which he stands.

Well Mr. Bryan may have some delusions, but he is not so deluded as to imagine that in any advice the New York Times may give to the democratic party or to the American people, that great newspaper is actuated by any desire to interfere with special interests or to make material contribution to popular government.

### ON THE SAME DAY

On April 27, the Associated Press carried an interview with a railroad president, declaring that the railroads had determined to obey the law and that secret rebating was a thing of the past.

On the same day the Associated Press carried a dispatch from Los Angeles, showing that the Santa Fe railroad had been caught rebating, and that an indictment of seventy-six counts had been returned against that company.

### MISSED LAFOLLETTE

The Wall Street Journal says: "President Roosevelt makes no secret of his desire, which is a natural one, for the election of a successor, who would carry out the policy with which his administration is identified." How, then, did Mr. Roosevelt happen to overlook the high claims of Senator LaFollette in the search for a successor?

### ASTONISHING

It is astonishing how little a man has to know in order to edit a newspaper which is a mouthpiece for predatory wealth, but perhaps his conscience would trouble him more if he really understood the questions which he discusses.



BUT HE KEEPS RIGHT ON SAWING WOOD

## MR. HEARST'S NEW PARTY

Attention has already been called to Mr. Hearst's New York speech on the evening of April 13, in which he expressed his dissatisfaction with existing parties and his determination to organize a new party through the instrumentality of the Independence League. That Mr. Hearst means well will be admitted, but there will be a difference of opinion as to the wisdom of his action. In joining a party a man naturally asks two questions: First, what does the party stand for? And second, what chance has the party of accomplishing its purpose? The second question is scarcely less important than the first for unless a party has a prospect of putting its principles into law it strives in vain, and because it strives in vain it does not appeal to the people.

Of course a party may do educational work without dominating the government and all parties, however small, do educational work, but the great majority of the voters prefer to see results rather than to do pioneer work. Mr. Hearst complains that the democratic party is not harmonious—that is true. But unfortunately there is no chance of securing absolute harmony in any party of any size. If a party has as many as two members the conservative and radical elements will appear. Even where all agree in principles there will be differences of opinion as to methods and such differences cause almost as much trouble as differences in principle. The republican party seemed to be a united party when it came into power in

1861 and yet before Lincoln had been in office three years the radical element of the party thought him too conservative; and before eight years elapsed a republican congress tried to impeach a republican president.

The Independence League must grow in order to exert a great influence and it can not draw to itself any considerable number of thinking men without becoming a debating society.

Whether the new party is really needed is a matter which time alone can decide. Mr. Hearst has a large personal following and his papers exert a marked influence. He has left the democratic party because he has lost faith in its power to secure reforms and the Independence League will offer a political home to those who despair of relief through either the democratic or republican parties, but it can not hope to attract those democrats who still believe that the democratic party can be made an effective instrument in the hands of the people for the securing of remedial legislation; neither can it expect to attract reform republicans unless those republicans believe that the independence league can bring reform sooner than the democrats can.

The Commoner has faith in the democratic party—not in its infallibility or in its freedom from mistakes, but in the patriotic purpose of the rank and file of the party and in the prospect of an early victory for that party. The democratic party has made mistakes—what party has not?—