

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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There are growing evidences that Mr. Watterson's "dark horse" is a chestnut.

The Fairbanks autobiography appears to be official only in what it does not disclose.

The republican road to harmony in Ohio seems badly in need of the split log drag.

The American Protective Tariff League is again giving its annual exhibition of bigotry.

King Alfonso wants a larger navy. The cradle industry is the thing Spain most needs.

The "undesirables" will please move over a little and make room for Rev. William J. Long.

Ireland, it seems, is quite old enough to tell the difference between a political plum and a lemon.

The weather conditions this spring indicate that the Fairbanks boom is maintaining a steady growth.

Surely the Houston Post's rabbit-fattened bass would make excellent bait for suckers north and south.

The absorbing question now is, "Are we to have a shivery, woolen-blanket, fire-in-the-morning June?"

"Is piracy lawful?" queries the Pittsburg Gazette. Some species of piracy seem to have been legalized.

When a man begins to denounce "yellow newspapers" the first inquiry is, "What has he been exposed in doing?"

The chief objection to the Oklahoma constitution is that it was made for the people and not for the machine politicians.

It seems that Governor Hughes has his legislature trained so well that it will walk right up and eat out of his hand.

One result of the frost-bitten spring is that the good housewife is "nearer" than ever with the canned fruit she put up last fall.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat is still throwing fits because the republicans of Oklahoma were not given the last gerrymander.

The Buffalo Times says that if tidal waves make presidents, Senator Foraker won't even get his feet wet. Wrong. He'll get tangled up with the undertow that always follows a tidal wave.

## The Commoner.

Several esteemed contemporaries are discussing the "ten best things to eat." We suggest hash, that contains most of them.

Curiously enough a lot of legal gentlemen who are opposed to the initiative and referendum are strongly in favor of a court of appeals.

Collier's Weekly seems inclined to throw a little discredit upon Mr. Fairbanks' chief claim upon precedent, that of having been born in a log cabin.

Mr. Root says the nation's moral standard is higher than it was. Yes, the people are rapidly tiring of the advice and counsel of corporation lawyers.

Perhaps the cold weather this spring is due to the fact that the north pole has started down this way to discover what has become of Walter Wellman.

Mr. Carnegie says Ambassador Bryce "knows more than any other man in the world." But does he know how to avoid the discomforts of housecleaning time?

President Roosevelt has gone after the "nature fakirs," which means the rapid disappearance from public view of "undesirable citizens" and Ananias clubs.

The king of Spain celebrated his 21st birthday the same week that he became a father. The crimson atmosphere in the vicinity of the Madrid palace is excusable.

The Washington Herald proudly boasts that the capital city has a tobacconist named Plugge. Huh! Lincoln has an undertaker named Guile and a collector named Dunn.

It will be generally admitted that a wolf can at least kill a caribou as effectually as the "Big Stick" knocked out the Northern Securities merger and the beef trust.

Abraham Reuf is by no means the first man who forgot about his family relations until they were recalled to him by force of being caught with the goods on him.

A Michigan woman daubed the mayor of her city with several kinds of paint. Just like a woman's ignorance of politics. A man would have made it a coat of whitewash.

The Harrisburg, Pa., Telegraph has an editorial department under the head, "Heard on Capital Hill." It is much more readable than a column of "Smelled on Capitol Hill."

The California statutes provide the death penalty for train wrecking. With defective rails and defective management, however, it is almost impossible to locate the blame.

One of the amusing features of recent graft revelations is the spectacle of Harrisburg, Pa., newspapers expressing surprise at the widespread reign of graft in San Francisco.

Perhaps Governor Frantz of Oklahoma is opposing statehood under the new constitution because he realizes that under statehood he never would have been governor of Oklahoma.

The supreme court has decided that dredgemen engaged on government work are seamen. It is now up to the court to decide that a mule with a mountain howitzer on its back is a battleship.

A lot of republican politicians are opposing the adoption of the Oklahoma constitution on the grounds that its framers preferred making it of service to the people rather than republican.

The National Association of Manufacturers went on record in favor of tariff revision. The "standpatters" must look upon this as a stab under the fifth rib from a member of the household.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger says that San Francisco's method of conducting a strike vies in meanness with the methods of its grafters. It would be interesting to note what a lot of Philadelphia strikers would do if they tried to vie in meanness with the methods of Quaker City grafters. If they succeeded they would certainly show the country some new kinks in the strike business.

## Paragraphic Punches

Won't somebody please sic the Teddy Bear on the George Baer?—Philadelphia North American.

Henry Watterson's dark horse has a moustache. Good material for an animal story.—Buffalo Courier.

The next president of the steel trust should be too old for either gambling or marrying.—Atlanta Journal.

It is a safe bet that the insurance companies will not pick the democratic standard bearer in 1908.—Buffalo Times.

Let us thank Heaven that the Haywood trial isn't about something that ex-Pittsburg people have been doing.—Grand Rapids News.

Europe may pass restrictive immigration laws if some of our rich continue to select it for their honeymoons.—New York American.

An Ohio man has walked from New York to Zanesville in search of health. Anyhow, the defective rail peril didn't get him.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

President VanCleave of the National Association of Manufacturers, who favors child labor, should be waked up with a kick in the shins.—Minneapolis Journal.

There is a law in Delaware making it a misdemeanor to drink whisky on a train in that state. That doesn't make it very "long between drinks."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Schwab says the recent slump in Wall Street served to bring about a healthy check. Evidently Mr. Schwab was short in several lines that were affected.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Mr. Carnegie is reported to be suffering from a cold "caught by sitting in drafts of cold air at the peace conference." Then he certainly caught the cold during an intermission between speeches.—Washington Post.

If anybody can make the devil look less black than he has been painted, who should be able to do it as Secretary Root? Hasn't he been the ablest trust attorney in the country for many years?—Portland Journal.

According to reports Mr. E. H. Harriman has resumed activity as the general manager of the sprinkling cart and is freely irrigating some more railroad stocks, although he does not really need the money.—Birmingham News.

Protest has been made that too many heroes of modern novels are represented as using alcoholic beverages. Worse than this, some of them have a tendency to drive the brain-wearied reader to drink.—Washington Star.

The time has come when the administration should have a quiet, candid conference with Hon. Joseph G. Cannon. What is the purpose of the speaker in allowing all this presidential talk to go on?—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Something of the appalling character of New York life insurance business is revealed by the fact that a Chicago man has refused to accept a position as trustee of a company in deference to his conscience.—Butte Intermountain.

Oklahoma democrats insist that every so-called radical provision in their new state constitution is supported by the public utterances of President Roosevelt. But what about those seven democratic electoral votes that are causing so much anguish in Washington?—New York World.

Foraker scores most every time he strikes out and his latest is his reply to President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton. He tries to give that gentleman to understand that while the framers of the constitution might not now recognize it if they saw it, that they would not be any worse off than the president, who knows so little about it that he does not recognize its limitations. Will Taft be coached to reply to this?—Kansas City Post.