

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The eagle on the new gold coins is flying. And that is what makes 'em so hard to catch.

In the meantime it is a good idea to be organizing for the campaign of 1908. Join the "Million Army" and be prepared to do your part.

Long before the douma has abolished the czar's titles the czar will have finished the douma.

This advice to keep our money in circulation during the Christmas season sounds superfluous.

It is now recalled that simplified spelling did not make much of a showing in the recent message.

The Commoner wishes every reader—and all the world besides—a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Congressman Fowler seemingly favors hitching an enacting clause to the national banks and letting them be it.

"Wizard" Burbank has involved the spineless cactus, several years after the evolution of the spineless congressman.

Speaker Cannon is now telling how much he loves organized labor. But organized labor will insist on being shown.

Word comes that Secretary Cortelyou plays the piano well. But we opine that his notes look better than they sound.

With a fifty per cent salary increase insured why should congressmen be impressed with the idea of a currency stringency?

Senator "Bob" Taylor says he hasn't played on a violin for twenty years. But just say "fiddle" to him and he knows what you mean.

Doubtless a number of Kansas City men and women arrested for violation of the law by acting on Sunday will be able to prove an alibi.

Any one knowing the whereabouts of, or having any information relative to T. M. Walters who was last heard of at Seattle, Wash, No. 500 1/2 Sixth Avenue South, April 1902, will kindly notify G. H. Walters, 2245 Vine street, Lincoln, Neb.

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We tremble lest all the criticisms of the eagle on the new gold coins result in the elimination of the eagle and the substitution of a bear or a bob cat.

The Washington Herald says a certain grade of cheap whisky is made from rags. This is news, although we've often heard of rags being made from whisky.

Speaking of tough luck, that is what happened to an Oklahoma bank that safely tided over a big run and the financial flurry, only to be looted by safe blowers.

Speaker Cannon opines that there will be no tariff legislation at this session, and as "Uncle Joe" is congress he surely ought to know what is not going to happen.

Senator Platt has just introduced a bill to give corporations a little bit more of the best of it. Senator Platt is determined to perform the work he was elected to perform.

We respectfully submit to the Paragraphers' Union the desirability of excluding from membership those who persist in putting the most of their product inside of quotation marks.

Complaint is made that the new \$20 gold pieces are concave and otherwise irregular in shape, thus making it difficult to stack them. But that isn't what makes it difficult for most men.

A Pittsburg man offers \$2,000,000 for a seat in the senate. It would be a good investment for the government to pay several senators that amount to vacate the seats they now occupy.

The Pittsburg Gazette-Times says Chicago is as good a place to nominate P. C. Knox as any it knows of. Wouldn't Philadelphia seem more like home? Or the new state house at Harrisburg?

James Hazen Hyde expresses a willingness to pay over \$1,000,000 if allowed to return to this country without being molested by the sheriff. That is a lot of money, but under the circumstances hardly enough.

The laws of West Virginia prohibit the employment of children under fourteen years of age in mines. Many of the victims of the Monongah disaster were boys under that age. Here is an opportunity to enforce the written law.

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Continued from Page Five)

there was something sinister about Mr. Hill's argument. One phrase of it would strike the man who has studied the question with peculiar force. Without quoting literally, Mr. Hill said in effect this: "Canals capable of transporting one thousand ton barges will not solve the problem. A one thousand ton barge can't compete with one box car. Canals and river channels capable of accomodating vessels, whether barges or steamers, of ten thousand tons are essential. Obviously Mr. Hill's purpose was to applaud the theory, but to make its application utterly impossible.

But harking back to Mr. Cannon. He told a number of gentlemen interested in what is perhaps today the most vital movement for the improvement of freight conditions in the United States that he would have none of it. He would not aid a vote of a hundred million bonds for the improvement of interior waterways, nor would he one for five millions of bonds. In brief his position is that so far as our waterways are concerned, they must be developed slowly out of current revenues. He said benevolently that no doubt when the present ninety million American people had grown into four hundred million, the system now sought could be put into effect. But until that time he would not turn over a hand to aid it. How much this will popularize him with the people of the west and the south, who with insufficient railway facilities, have magnificent possibilities for water transportation, if developed, can only be left to conjecture. Still it may be said for Mr. Cannon that he has thrived on unpopularity and may think it still not a bad political asset.

Almost everybody in public life has been saying that there should be a revision of the tariff, of course at the hands of its friends. Mr. Roosevelt contributed the one official statement on the subject when he said in his message

virtually that to revise before election would be unwise, and after election unnecessary. Here again Mr. Cannon stepped into the breach with a straightforward statement of his principles. He is for revision, almost ready for immediate revision. But the kind of revision is not quite that for which the country as a whole has been clamoring. Addressing a convention of Ohio and New Jersey pottery manufacturers, he assured them that there would be no reduction of the tariff on the goods which competed with theirs, but that as a matter of fact it ought to be increased. So that the first specific proposition for a revision of the tariff which has come from any prominent member of this administration has been for revision upward and not downward.

It was at this meeting, so rumor goes, that a somewhat disgruntled potter, who is also active in national politics, delivered himself of the following epigram:

"I hope the administration has something to promise us in the near future. I have had two gifts from the republican party in the last ten years. From the McKinley administration I got a handsome house and lot; from the Roosevelt administration a mortgage upon it."

Free silver, not this time from the democratic party, that famous party of "repudiation and dishonor." But before this congress is over you are going to find republican senators and congressmen from the middle west urging as a relief from the present financial stringency, a renewed coinage of silver. Colorado has a new senator by the name of Guggenheim. He is one of seven brothers who control the silver smelting business, practically of the entire country. His brother Solomon is traveling through the west preaching a new form of silver coinage. He offers this suggestion: "The west frame a bill giving the secretary of the treasury discretionary power to purchase silver bullion up to fifty million ounces, and that all silver so purchased be immediately coined into silver dollars." He does not specify the price at which the silver should be purchased, although he says that when the silver question was agitated before throughout the country the production was twenty-three of silver to one of gold. Now it is eight of silver to one of gold. We accept Mr. Guggenheim's figures without investigation as he is unquestionably an authority on the subject. It would be curious, would it not, if Mr. Roosevelt and his party having adopted practically all the other principles for which Mr. Bryan stood in 1896 should wind up by taking over to themselves the coinage of silver as a relief for a financial stringency for which they themselves are responsible.

Once again comes the proposition for the revision of the tariff by its friends. And again the revision is to take the shape of an increase of the tariff. Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire, who is serving his third term in the senate, has offered a resolution which has for its ultimate purpose the destruction of the reciprocity arrangement with Germany. Senator Gallinger comes from a state in which there is little manufacturing done. In the senate he is a sort of friend and philosopher of the republican machine, not exerting any very wide influence, but on the other hand having no serious enemies. When he was elected to the senate men laughed. He was a druggist and also had a small practice as a physician. At first he was known in Washington as Dr. Gallinger. He has carefully eliminated that honorable title. In politics of the senate he has proved himself a master. He has secured a position on the most eagerly sought committee, namely, the District of Columbia committee, and since the retirement of Mr. Babcock of Wisconsin is practically the mayor of Washington. Mr. Gallinger has aligned himself with the men in the republican party who declare that there shall be no revision of the tariff unless upward. His prominence gives especial force to what he has to say.

These are the men who insist that the tariff shall stand as it is or be increased: Senator Foraker, Senator Dick, Vice President Fairbanks, Speaker Cannon, Senator Lodge, Senator Crane, Senator Gallinger, Senator Perkins, Senator Guggenheim, Senator Cullom, Representative Madden, Senator Allison.

But after all it is not worth while to enumerate all. It is fair to say that the dominant forces at the capital today stand against any sort of tariff revision and that the Sixtieth congress will do nothing to relieve the burden of taxation until after the presidential conventions are held, and probably not until after the presidential elections.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.