

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor	CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher
RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor	Editorial Rooms and Business Office 324-330 South 12th Street
One Year.....\$1.00	Three Months..... .25
Six Months..... .50	Single Copy..... .05
In Clubs of Five or more, per year... .75	Sample Copies Free. Foreign Post. 5c Extra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

DISCONTINUANCES—It is found that a large majority of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before expiration. It is therefore assumed that continuance is desired unless subscribers order discontinuance, either when subscribing or at any time during the year.

PRESENTATION COPIES—Many persons subscribe for friends, intending that the paper shall stop at the end of the year. If instructions are given to that effect they will receive attention at the proper time.

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 21, '09, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1909. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

ADVERTISING—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

criminal lawyer, would say that it looked like conspiracy.

I challenge you to cite in all our political history a more dishonorable and disreputable piece of business unless, perchance, you cite something in your own career of which the people are not yet advised.

Just at this juncture it is most pertinent to inquire whether you have already entered into another conspiracy involving our financial and currency legislation?

Have you already perfected your plans by which you are to make American banking and commerce the football of our politics, precisely as our productive industries are today by the establishment of a central bank? Let the American people beware of any proposition you may bring forth and insist that no general financial and currency plan which you propose be adopted until it has been considered by the American people for at least three to four years, that all the jokers and all the schemes with which it is certain to be pregnant, may be discovered and aborted, or killed.

Is it possible that you do not know that the most important question before the American people today is "Cannonism?" If the people are to end this travesty on a free representative government, and if they want men, free men, to represent them, and not such a man as Joseph G. Cannon of Danville, Ill., who assumes to stand for the whole 387 congressional districts as well as his own, they will let no man represent them in the sixty-second congress who has not made the following pledges:

First: I will vote for a rule which will provide that all places of patronage about the capitol shall be drawn for precisely as the members now draw for the choice of seats, so far as such places may not be reasonably put under civil service rules.

Second: I will vote to strip the office of speaker of the house of representatives of all political power, and make him just what the speaker of the house of commons is, simply a residing member.

Third: I will vote for a rule that provides that the house of representatives shall vote for a committee to appoint the committees of the house.

If the republican party wins the next congressional election, it will only be upon the grave of "Cannonism."

Lastly, sir, as you are aware, we now have a government by edict, so completely have you absorbed and usurped all power, legislative as well as political. You have succeeded in Russifying the house of representatives. But, sir,

The Commoner.

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 34

unless I misjudge the intelligence, the pride, the self-respect, the patriotism and the general temper of the American people, you will be the last of the political Bourbons, and the conditions which made such a creature as you possible, will end with the sixty-first congress.
CHARLES N. FOWLER.

A REPUBLICAN PAPER'S OPINION

The Philadelphia North American goes to the support of Representative Fowler in his attack on Speaker Cannon. From a long editorial in the North American the following is taken:

"We think that we have some cause for pride in having been the first metropolitan daily newspaper to tell the American people the blunt truth about Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois. Two years have passed since we summed up deliberately and carefully the results of our study of the man, his methods, and the bearing of both upon our national life. Such an editorial expression now would not excite much attention. These have been educational years. But it created a sensation then—and especially in Washington. For in some unaccountable way a Cannon myth had come into existence. There had been fostered a sentiment throughout the country distinctly favorable to Cannon. The Danville money-lender and traction franchise grabber was regarded generally as a fine survival of the good old rugged, plain-spoken, shrewd, honest, humorous, homespun American. It was the fashion to pass mildly over the foulness of the man's mind, speech, manner and personal habits. Actually there were innumerable clean, honest, self-respecting Americans who never had seen Cannon nor studied his career, and so were deceived into attributing to him some of the traits of Lincoln. There was beginning the fixity of a tradition—the universal acceptance of a myth as an actuality. People were commencing to speak of 'Uncle Joe' in the same affectionate, yet reverent, spirit that they once spoke of 'Old Abe.' For the opportunity we had and used to check that desecration of the memory of the great American who, in soul and deeds, was the absolute opposite of Cannon, we feel pride and gratitude. We did not speak in haste. Our comment was inspired by long and thorough study of Cannon's whole career. Nor was our attack, which has been continuous since, and will persist until the influence which menaces every good cause is made helpless for evil or removed from public life, launched against the man. We stood out against the popular idea of the man and assailed him with the truths of his present and his past solely because of what he represents. We had become convinced that as speaker of the house of representatives he had usurped power over congress that was imperiling every progressive policy, every fair protection of the people against rich lawbreakers, every project of economic development and preservation of the country's natural wealth. We saw that not a single righteous demand of the people had the slightest chance of being granted by appropriate legislation so long as he perverted representative government by his domination of congress, except when, as in the cases of railroad rate regulation and the pure food law, a president as inflexible for the right as Roosevelt would cast the whole weight of his administration's influence for the people and against the things that Cannon always represents."

REPUBLICAN CORRECTS REPUBLICAN

The following editorial appeared in the Des Moines (Iowa) Register and Leader, a republican paper, issue of August 18:

PRAISE AND BLAME

The Sioux City Journal praises Coe I. Crawford, the Dakota senator who knuckled under when the test came.

This is good so far as it goes. But why does the Journal not accompany its praises of the hinged knee with an equal condemnation of Senator Hale of Maine, who refused to sign the conference report until the paper schedule was fixed as he demanded, or Senators Elkins and Scott, who made the tariff on coal a test of their support of the bill?

If Senator Crawford was right and republican, then these distinguished easterners were wrong and democratic, and it would give balance to the Journal's comment if it should say so in unmistakable terms.

The situation is well presented in the votes of Senator Hale and Congressman Mann of Illinois. Senator Hale said \$4 on paper or no vote, Congressman Mann said \$2 on paper or no vote. Of course, when the time came the eastern in-

terest prevailed and the tariff on paper was put at twice what the republican house committee had found to be adequate for protection. Congressman Mann voted as he talked. How can he be condemned without at the same time animadverting on the attitude of the senator from Maine?

In other words, why should the west be all the time praised for knuckling under, while the east is praised for its manly stand for what it wants? Why should the Sioux City Journal or any other western newspaper be condemning independence at home when it is commending it abroad?

It has been this western spirit of subserviency that has justified the attitude of the Hales and Elkinses. They know the west will give in, they count upon that as an asset. As for the Hales and Elkinses, they never give in. They win all their fights by standing pat.

Senator Crawford did just what the east expected him to do. He is now engaged just as the east knew he would be engaged, in apologizing for a bill that gives the east everything and the west what the boy shot at. What is there especially to commend in that?

The fact is, and the Sioux City Journal might as well recognize it first as last, when the senators from Iowa and a few others showed courage enough to vote as they talked they set a new pace for the west and created a new respect for western opinion. They established a leadership for themselves. They will go into the new congress with confidence and with power. Senator Crawford and his like are negligible quantities for the future and everybody knows it. Their measure has been taken. But the senators from Iowa were never so much looked to as they are today. And they were never so highly respected by friend and opponent alike.

THE MONETARY COMMISSION

Associated Press dispatches say that President Taft was closeted with Senator Aldrich at Beverly several days ago, and that it was decided to revise the monetary laws. Those who are in doubt as to what may be expected in this new "revision" may be enlightened by extracts from an editorial that appeared recently in the New York Times, a newspaper that in the last campaign supported the republican ticket. The Times says:

"I don't know anything. I am a member of the monetary commission." These are the unfortunate words put into the mouth of one of the gentlemen who began their task a year or two ago, and who will presently make suggestions for the improvement of our banking and currency laws. His meaning was not that he was ignorant about everything, but only about his particular task as a monetary commissioner. He is not in the confidence of the active, managing section of the commission, and does not know what is being done or why. "I am ignorant of the whole republican scheme of things."

"This is what was to be expected. The currency is being reformed by the same hand that revised the tariff downward. Many honeyed words are used. The most praiseworthy professions are made. A great parade is made of taking everybody into confidence regarding the smallest move under consideration. And yet the fact is that the very members of the commission are unaware of the real intentions of those whose word is final. When the report is made it will depend for its enactment upon the combinations in its support. There will be no lack of support. Seven thousand national banks with an investment of around \$700,000,000 in government bonds, showing a depreciation of many millions, are a force not to be despised. If the currency is to be reformed upon the principles of monetary science, and not according to the interests involved, there is need of the greatest vigilance."

NO TIME FOR SENTIMENT

The house had just listened to the emergency deficiency bill, which appropriates \$25,000 for the president's expenses, \$12,000 for automobiles for the speaker and vice president, \$7,400 for strawberry shortcake and Rocky Ford canteloupes in the senate cafe, and cash gifts here, there, and anywhere among the people who wind, burnish and tend the capitol.

Mr. Clark arose.

"While we are filling little holes here and there," he said, "wouldn't it be sweet of us if we voted the consumers about a dollar each?"

The gavel fell with a sickening thud.

"This is no time for sentiment," the speaker said.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.