

# The Commoner.

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## Nebraska in Congress

Nebraska should be well represented at Washington after March 4.

Congressman Hitchcock, the democratic nominee for the United States senate, ought to succeed Senator Burkett. Mr. Hitchcock has made a splendid record in congress, while Burkett has grossly misrepresented the interests of Nebraska. The large insurgent element in the republican party is opposed to Burkett and that is sufficient to insure his defeat.

In the First district Congressman Maguire, the democratic candidate for re-election, is opposed by William Hayward, secretary of the republican national committee. Hayward is an extreme standpatter, while Maguire has made an ideal representative and deserves re-election.

In the Second district C. O. Lobeck is the democratic candidate against Judge Sutton. Mr. Lobeck is a worthy representative of the Swedish element of Nebraska's population—an element which has contributed much to the state's progress—and he is a man who can be trusted anywhere. There is little doubt as to his election.

In the Third district Congressman Latta is the democratic candidate against Mr. Boyd. He has served one term and had no opposition for re-nomination. His re-election is assured.

In the Fourth district Judge Good carries the democratic standard against C. H. Sloan. Mr. Good is one of the best democrats in the state and would make an excellent congressman. He is the type of man we need at Washington.

In the Fifth district the republicans have re-nominated Congressman Norris, and it would be difficult if not impossible to defeat him but for the fact that Ex-Congressman Sutherland, his democratic opponent, has a record which commends him to the voters. Sutherland stands for all the good things that Norris represents, and for many good things that Norris opposes. And Sutherland would, in addition, have the advantages of having his party with him, while Norris would have his party against him.

In the Sixth district W. J. Taylor received the populist nomination while J. R. Dean received the democratic nomination. They are both good men and it is to be hoped that some plan will be devised whereby one of them will withdraw in order that the voters who do not like Congressman Kinkaid's record may mass their votes in behalf of popular government.

If Nebraska can elect a democratic senator and six democratic congressmen in 1910 she will contribute her quota toward the great victory that seems probable this year. Let every democrat in the state do his duty.

### A CENTRAL BANK

It can not be denied that the tendency among our great financiers is toward the establishment of a central bank. Such a bank would be able to control not only the purse strings of the nation but the purse strings of the people. Because of this enormous power, such a bank would be able to control elections, dictate gov-

ernment policies, crush great principles, and shape the business of the country according to the ends and advantages of those in authority in this central bank.

Such a bank, if these men had their way, would be endowed with money-issuing powers "without the pre-requisite of bond deposits."

There are many things nowadays which threaten the welfare of the people, but of all of the propositions so far made none promise greater detriment than the suggestion that there be established in this country a Nick Biddle institution.

And yet it may be that out of the threatened disaster great good will come. The creation of another Nick Biddle may thus provide a call for another Andrew Jackson; and at no time in its history has this country been so sadly in need of a man of Jackson's mould as it is today.

### GOOD FOR HOKE SMITH

Hoke Smith was nominated for governor of Georgia over the present governor, Joseph M. Brown by an enormous majority. The contest was an exciting one as indicated by the following dispatch sent during the campaign:

"The past struggles of these two are a chapter in the south's most picturesque political history, Brown being the state railroad commission chairman, whom Smith, while governor three years ago, deposed, only to have this former chairman turn the tables by beating him for governor when Smith desired a renomination. So intense is the interest now that polls have been taken of passengers on railroad trains, corner groceries have had straw votes, and it is not uncommon to poll office building elevators in their flights between floors to learn whether their occupants preponderate for Brown or Smith."

Hoke Smith is a sturdy American. He appreciates the importance of keeping the special interests out of political authority. In the face of great discouragements he has stood faithfully for his convictions. Defeated two years ago by the corporation and liquor interests, he is now victorious by a pronounced majority, and Georgia is to be congratulated that this able, faithful man will again hold the gubernatorial office.

### WHAT ABOUT LAFOLLETTE?

Senator LaFollette is fighting for his senatorial life in Wisconsin.

Mr. Roosevelt has here an opportunity to put his insurgency into practical use. It is said he does not like LaFollette personally. That, however, is of small moment at this time when the special interests in the republican party are trying to defeat the Wisconsin senator. LaFollette has been true to the public interests. He has not done everything democrats would have him do, but he has made a determined, faithful fight according to his convictions, and he is entitled to the cordial support of men who, like Mr. Roosevelt, prefer to be counted upon the side of the masses rather than upon the side of the special interests.

If Mr. Roosevelt would deliver one speech for Senator LaFollette it would advance the cause of insurgency in all sections of the country.

### ONE BY ONE

One by one the Cannon democrats are falling. The men who joined with Cannon to defeat the democrats and insurgents are now learning from their constituents.

Leonidas F. Livingston and W. F. Howard, in point of service the oldest members of the Georgia delegation in the house of representatives, were defeated for renomination in the Georgia primaries recently held. The Associated Press says: "The fight against Livingston and Howard was in each case based upon the representatives' alleged desertion of the democratic party when it was sought last December to change the so-called Cannon rules of the house."

## False Argument

Did you ever hear an opponent of county option argue that county option is not fair because a victory for the dries closes all saloons while a victory for the wets still leaves dry spots? Now see how easily this argument—advanced in all seriousness, too—is answered.

Nebraska went wet in 1890 when the prohibition amendment was defeated; if the state had gone dry at that time ALL saloons would have been closed, but will any one say that, the state having gone wet, FAIRNESS requires that we shall have saloons everywhere? Will any brewer or distiller endorse over his own signature the argument that, because the prohibition amendment was defeated, no community should be permitted to refuse license for the public sale of liquor?

Will any liquor dealer or saloon keeper advance such an argument? Is any opponent of state prohibition willing to make a fight against it with the understanding that state prohibition shall mean no saloons anywhere and that a defeat of the amendment shall mean no refusal of license anywhere? Of course not. Nothing would do more to compel state prohibition than a serious attempt on the part of the liquor interests to construe the defeat of state prohibition to mean the opening of saloons everywhere.

It is just as absurd to say that the defeat of county option ought to mean the opening of saloons everywhere in the county, regardless of local sentiment. The fallacy is in using the words "fairness" and "justice," in making an argument in favor of saloons. Those words are not to be found in the liquor dealer's lexicon.

The man who runs a saloon is not engaged in business—he keeps a "place." He is, as a rule, engaged in a conspiracy against society; he is, with few exceptions, encouraging vice. It betrays dullness of comprehension or moral sensibility for one to argue that a victory for the wets in a county fight should give the liquor interests the right to force a saloon into every community. Where the people have county option the advocates of saloons are willing enough to admit the right of towns to refuse license—it is the very basis of their contention and yet many good people have been deluded by the argument that it is unfair to allow county option to close all saloons unless the defeat of county option opens all saloons. There are other arguments equally absurd that are accepted by many good people but they will not be accepted when the subject is understood.

### READ THE RECORD

The republican opponents of Senator Burrows in Michigan are going to great trouble to prove that on one occasion Mr. Burrows paid a high compliment to Senator Aldrich. But why go to all this trouble? Why not look at the record and learn that Burrows, like most other republican senators, stood shoulder to shoulder with Aldrich, voting with him upon practically all of his raids upon the public interests.

### IN NEW JERSEY

James E. Martine, who is a candidate for the democratic nomination for United States senator before the New Jersey primaries September 13, declares in favor of a tariff for revenue only, denounces the trust system, favors physical valuation for railroad property, parcels post, postal savings and election of senators by the people.

### BEHIND THE TIMES

Now that Mr. Bryan has declared in favor of local option, it is remarkable that no irreverent paragrapher has ventured to dub him the Beerless Leader.—Providence Journal.

The Providence Journal is away behind the times. The "Beerless Leader" was sprung so long ago that it is now almost ready for the grave clothes.

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