

The Commoner.

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VOL. 12, NO. 50

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 20, 1912

Whole Number 622

The Commoner Wishes

"A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year"

To Every One, Everywhere and Forever

The Greatest Thing in the World

Christmas is love's festival. Set apart for the commemoration of God's gift of His Son it has grown into a great holiday which is observed throughout Christendom by rich and poor alike. Even those who refuse to take upon themselves the vows of any church are constrained to join in the beautiful custom which makes both parents and children look forward to this day with pleasant anticipations. For weeks before December 25 busy hands are at work, tiny savings banks are gathering in their sacred store and eager expectancy is written upon the faces of the young. To the boys and girls Santa Claus is a sort of composite donor who monopolizes the distribution of presents and who, reading the minds of his little friends, rewards the good (and all are good just before Christmas) with the very toys that they themselves have selected, while the older ones learn by experience that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Back of Christmas and the Christmas present is love, and the broad, brotherly love taught and exemplified by the Nazarene is not content with the remembrances which are exchanged as tokens of affection between members of the family and between intimate friends; it is compelling a widening of the circle to include the poor and the needy though not of kith or kin.

What an instructor love is! How it develops the one of whom it takes possession! When

once it is awakened it dissolves all opposition. Dr. Parkhurst, the New York clergyman, in illustrating the difference between force and love said (quoted from memory) "that force is the hammer which can break a block of ice into a thousand pieces but leaves each piece still ice, while love is the ray of sunlight which, though acting more slowly and silently, melts the ice."

At this season of the year our thoughts turn to the contemplation of the new degree of love revealed to the world by Jesus. To the love between members of the family and love between friends He added an all-pervading love that includes every member of the human race. Even enemies are not beyond the bounds of this love, for man's puny arms are not strong enough to break the bonds that unite each son of God to all his brethren. "Love is not stupid," says Tolstoy. It makes known to us our duty to our fellows and it will some day rule the world. Force is the weapon of the animal in us; after it comes money, which the intellect employs, sometimes for good, sometimes for harm. But greater than all is love, the weapon of the heart. It is a sword that never rusts, neither does it break and the wounds that it leaves are life-saving, not life-destroying. No armor can withstand it and no antagonist can resist it. But why try to define this love or to measure its scope? Paul, the apostle, in his first epistle to the Corinthians describes it in language to which nothing can

be added and from which nothing can be taken. Let his words suffice:

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass or clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all the mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things; believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away with. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child; now that I am become a man I have put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part, then shall I know even as also I have been known. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

THE SORE POINT

The New York Times protests very loudly against any plan of financial relief that recognizes government control. By so doing it betrays the secret motive of the Aldrich plan. The men who are back of the effort to secure a central bank and asset currency talk loudly about the need of an elastic currency but the moment a plan is suggested which gives the elasticity desired, it is viciously attacked, unless it includes further privileges to the banking fraternity.

The New York Times speaks for Wall street, but Wall street will not be permitted to write the banking laws of the nation any longer. Governor Wilson in the discussion of public questions has very properly insisted that the laws shall be written from the standpoint of the whole people and not from the standpoint of the special interests. It is fortunate for the country that we are to have a president who considers the interests of the general public and not the demands of the interested few in framing legislation.

NO MORE LORIMERISM

There are rumors that an attempt will be made to prevent the election of Judge W. H.

Thompson, the democrat who won the United States senatorship in Kansas, but the judge need not worry. There will be no more "Lorimerism" in this country—the disease has run its course. The senate, as it will be after March 4th, would not seat a man who would deliberately attempt to cheat the state out of the senator whom they have chosen. "The people rule." The above is sufficient comment also for the report that some of the corporation democrats of Illinois contemplate the defeat of Hon. J. Hamilton Lewis, the democratic nominee. The voters are in the saddle and will put to rout any man or set of men who attempt to unhorse them.

MR. TAFT AND THE "MERIT SYSTEM"

The Boston Herald compliments Mr. Taft upon his "strong plea for the preservation of the merit system." But Mr. Taft's recommendation on this point would have more force if he had not been such a thoroughgoing "republican" in the distribution of offices. The "merit system" as understood by the Taft administration would seem to be the keeping in office of republican partisans.

AN UNWIELDY SYSTEM

They are complaining now of the impeachment system that it is too unwieldy. The

Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, referring to the court of commerce impeachment proceeding, says:

"Five days of the Archbald impeachment trial have passed; the trial will be completed, barring unforeseen delays, some time in January and the senate already is wearied with the case. A handful of senators, figuratively speaking, appear anxious to listen to all the testimony that is to be presented. The average attendance at the sessions of the senate sitting as a court is about 40 per cent of the membership, and this average will be lowered in all probability as the trial drags along."

The answer is the recall.

ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION

Newspapers report that some of the progressive republicans in the senate are planning to push anti-trust legislation. But why should a democratic house allow progressive republicans to take the lead in such a matter? The party that repudiated Morgan, Ryan and Belmont ought not take a back seat on the trust question for a party whose campaign was so largely financed by Perkins, Hanna and Munsey. The Baltimore platform points the way and Governor Wilson has indorsed the demand for legislation making a private monopoly impossible.