

members of the American Bankers' association on the Glass-Owen currency bill, September 2. Only two members of the bankers' committee, James F. Forgan of Chicago, and Sol Wexler of New Orleans, gave their views.

The administration currency bill is well on its way through the house. At the time The Commoner goes to press the reading of the bill for amendment was completed, and its passage, with no material change from the form in which it was drawn by the banking committee, was predicted within a few days. The senate and house conferees, settling points in the tariff bill in disagreement between the two houses, are making good progress, and it is likely that the tariff bill will go to the president for his signature in a short time.

Isaac H. McMichael, ex-chief of pages of the house of representatives, testified before the house "lobby" investigating committee that he was paid \$50 a month during three sessions of congress from 1909 to January, 1912, by Mulhall, for services rendered. McMichael also testified that he kept Mulhall informed as to the status of bills in the house.

That the new parcel post system will result in a large postal surplus, amounting to probably \$10,000,000 for the current fiscal year, was the prediction made in a speech in the house of representatives by Representative Dadd J. Lewis of Maryland. He prophesied that it was only a question of time before the parcel post would absorb 90 per cent of the express business of the country.

The good roads office of the department of agriculture announced its intention of employing a publicity expert, to be supplied by the civil service commission. A new eligible list will be created to fill vacancies that may occur. The position pays \$8 a day, and the applicant must be at least twenty-five years of age and have had at least five years' experience in newspaper work. The competition is open to men only.

#### VASTLY IMPROVED

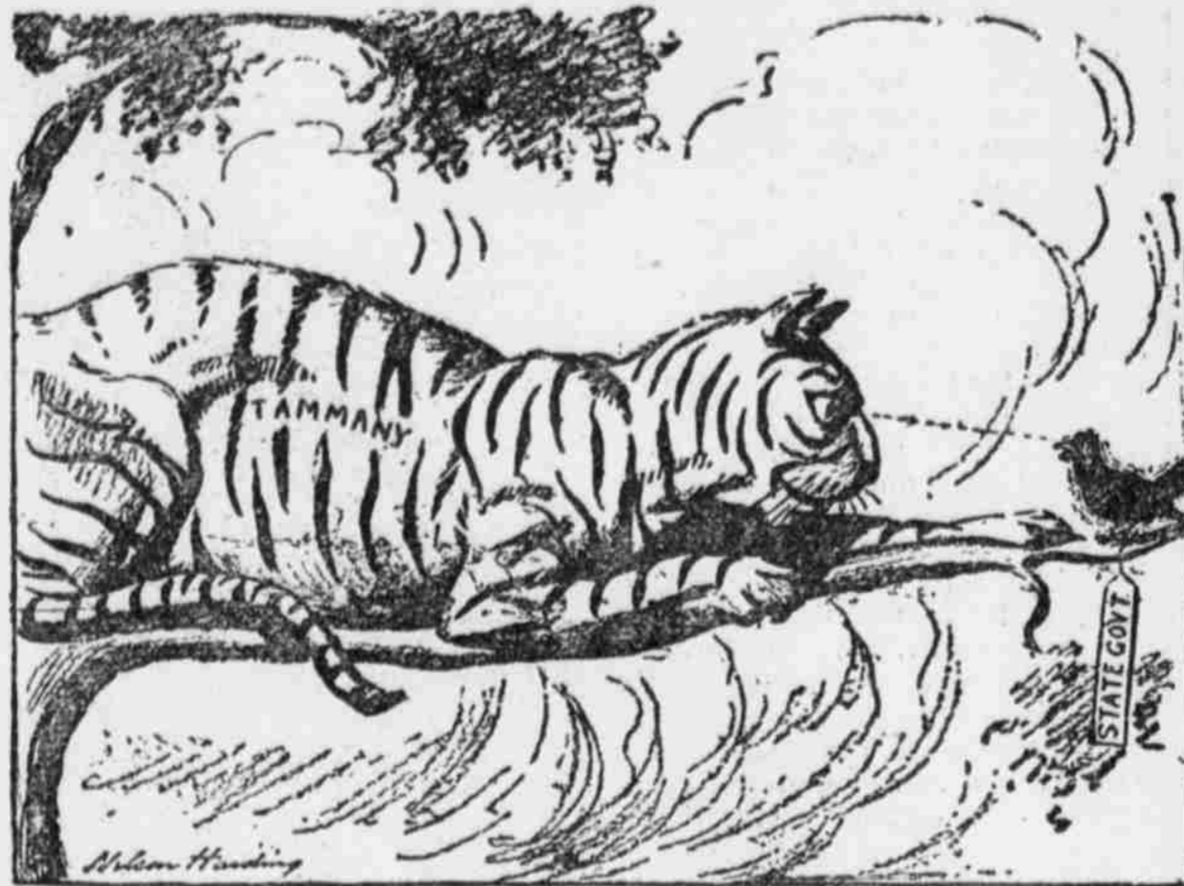
The Commoner, as a monthly publication, is vastly improved with its additional pages and its cleverly arranged departments. One new feature that strikes us as attractive and of much value is the "work of the president's cabinet." This, as Charlie Bryan would say about a piece of politics, is most probably "inside information." Certain it is that no one could get more about the work of the cabinet in the same time than the secretary of state, and this department alone is worth the price of admission.—The Omaha Nebraskan.

#### IDIOTIC

In a little Scotch highland village there was a "simple" man, who sometimes out of his blighted mind brought words of wisdom. He used, every Sunday, to sit in solitary and stupid state in the gallery of the village kirk, and listen to the long-winded old preacher who droned through the same sermon nearly every Sunday of the year. One Sabbath the minister stopped short in his sermon and spoke feelingly to his congregation. Said he: "I danna believe there's one mon awake and listening to the deescourse except the eediot in the gallery!"

For a moment there was silence. Then the vacant-minded one leaned over the rail and shouted: "And if I hadna been an eediot I'd ha' been asleep too."—Cleveland Leader.

## HYPNOTIZED



—Brooklyn Eagle.

## Gleaned from the Month's News

Cleveland's new home rule charter was upheld by the supreme court of Ohio on August 26 by a tie vote, 3 to 3. The decision follows a suit brought to test a ruling of Attorney General Hogan, who had declared unconstitutional the preferential vote and the primary elimination feature of the charter. The system provided by the new charter is considered an advance even beyond non-partisanship. It gives the voter the right to name a first, second and other choices until he has indicated in their order his opinion of the relative merits of the various candidates for any office. If there is no majority, the second and other choices are added to the vote until some candidate does receive a majority.

A skyscraper whose topmost tower will rise 901 feet above the curb is planned for erection in New York city by the Pan-American states association. According to the plans it will be constructed wholly of materials from the Latin-American republics, and will overtop the Woolworth building, the world's tallest habitable structure, 150 feet, and will be ready for occupancy with the Panama-Pacific exposition in California in 1915. The cost of the structure is estimated at \$9,000,000.

Governor Major of Missouri is the author of a new "good roads" idea that is destined to give a decided impetus to the good roads movement all over the country. An earnest and practical effort was made in every county in that state to improve conditions by means of two "good road days," August 20 and 21, which were designated by the governor in a proclamation. Governor Major, who personally took a hand in the work, says he will ask the governor of each state to set aside these dates in August next year as good road days. Governor Hodges of Kansas came into Missouri to help, and it is estimated that 50,000 men were actually engaged in building and repairing highways, bridges and culverts, cutting weeds and brush and digging ditches. Farming operations were suspended in many places and business and professional men joined in the crusade, the idea being to have everybody, as far as possible, work in person, and not by proxy. Women volunteers furnished meals and helped feed the toilers. Arkansas has already followed suit,

the governor designating September 3 and 4 as days for statewide community road work.

The palace of peace, built at The Hague at a cost of \$1,500,000, donated by Andrew Carnegie as a home for the permanent court of arbitration, was dedicated on the 28th of August, in the presence of the royal family of Holland, and a distinguished gathering of diplomats and publicists. The president of the Carnegie foundation placed the palace under the care of the diplomatic corps, of which for the purposes of the gift the Dutch foreign minister is made president. The retiring foreign minister, Van Swinderen accepted the custody of the building and expressed the conviction that the opening of the great structure added an important page to the history of arbitration.

The governors and ex-governors from twenty-five states attended the conference of the "house of governors" which met at Colorado Springs, Colo., August 26. The first of these conferences was called by President Roosevelt in 1908, and was so successful that they have been repeated every year since. Various important state problems were discussed with a view of obtaining the friendly cooperation of each state in matters of common concern, and affording an opportunity for an exchange of information on subjects lying within state jurisdiction. Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, represented President Wilson. He outlined the policy of his department toward western land settlement, told what is being done to reclaim arid lands, and stated that the government has expended \$80,000,000 in reclamation projects, and should expend an equal sum within the next decade. He also described the farm co-operative credit system and recommended its adoption and extension. Governor Hodges of Kansas and Governor Hunt of Arizona, both advocated the abolition of the two-house system of legislative government and the substitution of a single-chambered legislature subject to the initiative, referendum and recall. Governor O'Neal of Alabama advocated the increase instead of the curtailment of legislative powers. Governor Dunne of Illinois spoke on the control of public utilities, and told of the enactment of the law which gives every city in his state

the right to own and operate its public utilities. A preliminary report of the federal rural credits commission from Senator Fletcher, its chairman, was read. This commission has recently returned from an extensive investigation of the farming and credit systems of eighteen European countries, and has established permanent headquarters at Washington. It will make recommendations for a system of rural banking through which farmers may obtain loans, and finance co-operative buying, selling and producing organizations.

An estimate of the cost in money of the Balkan war, recently made public in London, contains the following figures: Turkey's expenditures to July 1, 1913, were \$180,000,000; Greece spent \$80,000,000; Servia, \$70,000,000; Bulgaria, \$100,000,000; Roumania, \$70,000,000. In addition to these figures, it is estimated that about \$400,000,000 was expended in bringing the armaments up-to-date.

Ferdinand August Bebel, long the leader of the German socialists, died in Zurich, Switzerland, of paralysis of the heart. He was born at Cologne, February 22, 1840, and was considered one of the most eloquent of German orators.

The Imperator, of the Hamburg-American line, the world's biggest ship, caught fire on the morning of August 28, while lying at her dock in Hoboken, New Jersey, and burned for five hours, despite the efforts of the ship's fire-fighting corps, the entire fire department of Hoboken and assistance from New York fire boats to extinguish it. The 1,500 third-class and steerage passengers and 1,100 of the crew escaped injury, with the exception of one of the ship's officers, who lost his life fighting the fire. The blaze caused damage estimated at \$50,000.

Colonel William C. Gorgas, chief sanitary officer of the Panama canal commission, has accepted the invitation sent him by the chamber of mines to undertake the improvement of the sanitation works in the Rand, South Africa, subject to the approval of the United States government.

Dr. Marie Piacenza, an Italian explorer, has succeeded in reaching the summit of Mount Numzum, a 22,000-foot peak in the Himalayas.

The twentieth universal peace congress opened August 20 at The Hague, over 950 delegates representing all civilized nations, being present.

Mrs. Julia Lorillard Butterfield, widow of General Daniel Butterfield, bequeathed all but \$780,000 of her \$3,000,000 estate to the international committee of the Y. M. C. A., for work in the army and navy.

Emile Ollivier, famous French statesman, premier of France under Napoleon III, and senior member of the academy, died at Annecy, France, August 20.

The Pilgrim's monument, a memorial of the tercentenary of the departure of the Pilgrims from Southampton, England, for America, was unveiled August 15 by Walter Hines Page, the United States ambassador. It is a column erected on the site of the pier from which the Pilgrims embarked on the Mayflower. Ambassador Page dedicated the monument with an oration, in which he quoted James Russell Lowell as saying that the Pilgrims were only colonists, who went in search of God instead of gold. The monument, designed by R. M. Lucas, is of stone