

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

"If Chance could fashion but a little flower,
With perfume for each tiny thief,
And furnish it with sunshine and with shower,
Then Chance would be Creator with the power
To build a world for unbelief."

—Fred Emerson Brooks.

It is asserted that the private fortunes of Czar Nicholas total seven billions. He would have difficulty in cashing in his political fortunes for any sum in excess of thirty cents.

The men who make the prices of what we eat seem to be the first to learn of a scarcity and the last to hear that a bumper new crop is on the market.

With the tramp threatened on one side with having to go to work and on the other with having to go to war, it will soon get so that it won't be really worth while being a tramp.

Every once in awhile some paragraph is printed in the papers that reminds us that they still have a king in England. Most of the children who have learned to read the last year or two are firm in the belief that his name must be Lloyd George.

A special committee of the New York chamber of commerce has discovered, by an investigation, that it takes nearly 10,000 carloads of foodstuffs each week to supply that city. A considerable saving could undoubtedly be made if the people could be induced to go to bed at the same time as the people do in other parts of the country. We pass this suggestion on to Mr. Hoover.

It is now charged that two men connected with the republican campaign last year divided \$60,000 between them out of the funds collected. The congressional committee is so astonished over the matter that it is talking of an investigation. It is not stated whether the astonishment is over the size of the amount of the rake-off or the fact that being found out indicates exceeding crude work.

The last Nebraska legislature passed a bill granting to the women of the state the right to vote for all offices not created by the constitution, as large a grant of suffrage as that body was empowered to give. A group of German-American democrats who represented the liquor interests in politics have hired a republican reactionary to secure the necessary 30,000 votes to secure a referendum. This will suspend the operation of the law until after the 1918 election. It ought to be made plain to the voters of the state that it will be regarded as an unpatriotic act for a man to sign a referendum suspending the suffrage law at a time when the nation is demanding of the mothers of the country that their sons be sacrificed in war and all the remainder of the women asked to bear their full share of war burdens.

President Wilson's Statement

The regulars will be the first troops sent to France, the President announced in a statement issued after signing the selective conscription bill. The statement follows:

"I shall not avail myself, at any rate at the present stage of the war, of the authorization conferred by the act to organize volunteer divisions. To do so would seriously interfere with the carrying out of the chief and most immediately important purpose contemplated by this legislation; the prompt creation and early use of an effective army, and would contribute practically nothing to the effective strength of the armies now engaged against Germany.

"I understand that the section of this act which authorizes the creation of volunteer divisions in addition to the draft was added with a view to providing an independent command for Mr. Roosevelt and giving the military authorities an opportunity to use his fine vigor and enthusiasm in recruiting the forces now at the western front. It would be very agreeable to me to pay Mr. Roosevelt this compliment and the Allies the compliment of sending to their aid one of our most distinguished public men, an ex-president who has rendered many conspicuous public services and proved his gallantry in many striking ways. Politically, too, it would no doubt have a very fine effect and make a profound impression. But this is not the time or the occasion for compliment or for any action not calculated to contribute to the immediate success of the war. The business now in hand is undramatic, practical, and of scientific definiteness and precision. I shall act with regard to it at every step and in every particular under expert and professional advice, from both sides of the water.

"That advice is that the men most needed are men of the ages contemplated in the draft provisions of the present bill, not men of the age and sort contemplated in the section which authorizes the formation of volunteer units, and that for the preliminary training of the men who are to be drafted we shall need all of our experienced officers. Mr. Roosevelt told me, when I had the pleasure of seeing him a few weeks ago, that he would wish to have associated with him some of the most effective officers of the regular army. He named many of those whom he would desire to have designated for the service, and they were men who can not possibly be spared from the too small force of officers at our command for the much more pressing and necessary duty of training regular troops to be put into the field in France and Belgium as fast as they can be got ready. The first troops sent to France will be taken from the present forces of the regular army and will be under the command of trained soldiers only.

"The responsibility for the successful conduct of our own part in this great war rests upon me. I could not escape it if I would. I am too much interested in the cause we are fighting for to be interested in anything but success. The issues involved are too immense for me to take into consideration anything whatever except the best, most effective, most immediate means of military action. What these means are I know from the mouths of men who have seen war as it is now conducted, who have no illusions, and to whom the whole grim matter is a matter of business. I shall center my attention upon those means and let everything else wait. I should be deeply to blame should I do otherwise, whatever the argument of policy or of personal gratification or advantage."

PRESIDENT ORDERS DIVISION UNDER PERSHING SENT TO FRANCE

The President has directed an expeditionary force of approximately one division of regular troops, under command of Gen. John J. Pershing, to proceed to France at as early a date as practicable. General Pershing and staff will precede the troops abroad. It is requested that no details or speculations with regard to the mobilization of this command, dates of de-

parture, composition, or other items be carried by the press, other than the official bulletins given out by the war department relating thereto.

SIMMONS COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Editor The Commoner: Simmons College, Abilene, Texas, has just closed the greatest year in its history. Practically nine hundred students were in attendance the past year. That marvelous statesman and world citizen, the Honorable William Jennings Bryan, delivered the commencement address. People came in their automobiles, many of them, for a hundred miles to hear him. Hundreds were turned away, not being able to get inside the great auditorium. He had an overflow audience again in the afternoon where he delivered an address from the Chautauqua platform. Col. Bryan grips the American people yet as no citizen of this republic. President Sanderfer of the college in presenting Mr. Bryan to the great audience pronounced him the greatest private citizen on the face of the earth and the one man who needs no introduction to an intelligent audience anywhere in the world.—Claude Lloyd, Member Class '17, Simmons College.

A "COUNTRY PRESS" ITEM

William Jennings Bryan of Lincoln, Neb., a prominent citizen of that section of the country, made a visit to Kansas City yesterday, combining business and pleasure. While in our city Mr. Bryan ordered eight full-sized Liberty Bonds, one for each of his grandchildren. Mr. Bryan declared that Kansas City has the finest Liberty Bonds to be found anywhere, and Mr. Bryan travels about considerably for a farmer. The fact that such a well known man should come all the way from Lincoln to Kansas City to make his purchases and to lay in his winter supply of them, proves what this paper always contended: That Kansas City is the best market in the world for Liberty Bonds. We welcome Brother Bryan to our already large and growing circle of Kansas City customers and we confidently expect the people up Lincoln way to follow the example of their illustrious neighbor. Come to Kansas City when you want Liberty Bonds!—Kansas City Star.

THE NEW BANNER

(By Katrina Trask, author of "In the Vanguard.")

O fellow-citizens of storm-tossed lands,
War weary! Sounds the bugle-note! Arise!
New steadfast standards wait your eager hands,
The Star of Promise orbs to meet your eyes.
Great kings must pass, that mankind may be free,
Beneath the banner of democracy!

The Mighty Ruler of this mortal life
Has wisdom, not by mortals understood;
The seeds of blood, the deeds of wanton strife
Shall some day harvest unexpected good.
Great kings shall pass and every nation be
Ruled by the people—for the people, free.

When the mad anguish of this stricken world—
Where valiant heroes daily fight and fall—
Has passed and Freedom's banners are unfurled,
Then shall we know the reason for it all!
Then every waiting, heart-sick land shall see
The ultimate design of Destiny!

Brave men and women laboring in toil—
Who, faithful, fight with willing sword or pen,
Who work to break the rock or till the soil—
Shall wear the high insignia of men.
All kings must pass, that every man may be
A monarch in his manhood, strong and free!

Beyond the present, unimagined woe,
A glorious day is breaking o'er the earth:
As spring flowers blossom, after ice-bound snow,
The God of Gods shall bring new things to birth.
It is the dawn! Great forces are set free!
All hail the day! World-wide democracy!