

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Editor and Proprietor.

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Violation of plain duty is perfectly constitutional.

What would have happened if a justice of the supreme court had suffered an income tax lapse of mind over night?

Democrats will not be slow to note that the administration organs and leaders are unanimous in their support of McLaurin.

Do you like **THE COMMONER**? If so, you can increase its influence by increasing its circulation. Ask your neighbor to subscribe.

The Sultan of Sulu is certainly not worrying about his status. He continues to draw his salary, and add to the number of his wives and slaves.

The republican papers do not try to defend the majority-of-one decision. They content themselves with administering an anesthetic to their readers.

Justice White's opinion was a lengthy one. It took a good many words to explain why he accepted Justice Brown's conclusions after repudiating Justice Brown's logic.

The American people should bear in mind the extraordinary powers conferred upon congress by the supreme court and be more careful in the election of congressmen.

If valiant service in the conquest and subjugation of a constitution has any military value the bravery displayed by Justice McKenna ought to secure a promotion for his son.

In a former issue of **THE COMMONER**, Senator Scott, of West Virginia, was spoken of as a senator from Virginia. The mistake is corrected for the benefit of those who may not be familiar with the personnel of the senate.

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Lord Brassey was chosen to deliver the address of welcome at a London banquet given in honor of J. Pierpont Morgan—and yet many people besides Shakespeare ask, "What's in a name?"

It is probable that Mr. Hanna will flood South Carolina with money to aid Senator McLaurin and then the republican party will claim credit for the good times which follow an increase in the circulation.

"Consent of the governed" was, it seems, but a little bit of fiction that our ignorant forefathers accepted as a great truth. Our forefathers might have been great statesmen if they had lived a century or so later.

The Star-Spangled Banner,
O, Long may it wave
O'er the land of the forcibly annexed
And the home of the benevolently assimilated.

The recollection of the treatment accorded Russell Harrison when his father, the ex-president, opposed imperialism would suggest the possibility that Justice Harlan's son may soon find that his services are no longer needed.

It is remarkable to note the avidity with which the administration organs seize upon and reprint all the arguments against fusion advanced by the democratic newspapers that have either openly supported the republican ticket or sulked through the campaign.

In view of the prominent part taken by Justices Brown and White in changing our form of government, a reader of **THE COMMONER** suggests that the national colors should be changed to Red, White, and Brown. But as Justice Gray also joined in the decision, why not make them Gray, Brown, and White?

Some of the republican newspapers suggest that democratic editors should apologize to Judge Harlan for the criticism made against the appointment of his son. Not at all, but the republican editors ought to condole with the president because the appointment of Justice Harlan's son did not have any effect on the father.

Clear the track for conquering Uncle Sam. Consent of the governed is a myth, taxation without representation has become a vested right, and a republic may have citizens, subjects and slaves. When the constitution threatens to curtail the privileges of exploiters and adventurers it must be kept at home. Truly we have "progressed" during the past three or four years.

The press dispatches report that Charles Foster, former secretary of the treasury, has made application for a discharge in bankruptcy. His assets are put down at nothing, while his debts amount to \$747,008.34. There was a time when Mr. Foster was considered a financier, and when his opinion upon a financial question was regarded as infallible by the lesser

lights in the financial world. As one never knows how much credit to give to the opinion of a great financier (until his debts are paid) it is a great deal better for each citizen to study public questions for himself and not accept the opinion of any one as conclusive.

"We want to make people of distant lands familiar with our products," says President McKinley. This is another sample of protection logic. The protectionist says: "Give us protection against the foreigners because we cannot compete with them; while we cannot undersell the foreigner in our own market, we can undersell him in his own." The strange part of this logic is that so many people accept it as correct.

Winston Churchill is credited with inventing a phrase. He speaks of "the official truth" and describes it as differing from "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," in that it is made to conform to the wishes and interests of the government. He says: "It is a peculiar product grown in the hot houses and conservatories of the home office, the colonial office, the foreign office, and in the chancelleries of the foreign embassies."

American steel rails are sold in Great Britain in open competition with British rails and at a lower rate than they are sold at home. Yet we must protect the "steel rail infant" from the competition of the foreign pauper-made rails. Protection logic looks very much like a Virginia rail fence, or like the track of the famous snake that

"Wriggled in and wriggled out
And left the people all in doubt
Whether the snake that made the track
Was going east or coming back."

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Some of the republican papers take exceptions to the statement in last week's **COMMONER** to the effect that the decision in the Downes case made the President an emperor. They contend that the arbitrary and absolute power conferred by the court is to be exercised by Congress, but they forget that the President must join congress in making laws for the nations subjects. As the colonial system increases the President will become a more and more powerful factor in legislation. Under the late decision the President is an emperor—the chief executive of an empire. Outside of the states he is not bound by the constitution and can exercise whatever power he can persuade Congress to grant.