

# The Commoner.

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Publicity for the trusts? Very well, but who will bell the cat?

Can it be that the Fairbanks boom is steered with an airship rudder?

The only way to improve the ship subsidy bill is to strike out the enacting clause.

Up to date no one has heard any of the "great captains of industry" complaining about the message.

John Bull may eat this Christmas dinner in Pretoria, but he is subject to interruptions between courses.

Even in Pennsylvania it pays to adopt a democratic platform and then go out and defend democratic principles.

Secretary Gage says the country needs a larger volume of money. Is Mr. Gage going to play traitor to "confidence"?

A careful study of the message will reveal that reciprocity has about as much chance as the sheep had to kill the butcher.

And now they say that there is a tobacco combine in the Philippine islands. This ought to make Congressman Hull favor a larger army over there—to protect the combine.

Will some administration organ please answer: Does President Roosevelt favor the ship subsidy bill? Yes or no, now. You have expressed the opinion that the message is "concise, clear and statesmanlike."

Mr. Chamberlain sees small prospect of ending the war, but as the Birmingham Small Arms company is declaring 20 per cent dividends with regularity Mr. Chamberlain hopes that he will be able to bear up.

The Commoner appreciates the compliment paid it by the children (four in one town) who recited Mr. Maupin's Thanksgiving poem, which appeared in the issue of November 22. It has also been largely copied in the weekly press.

The Philadelphia North American says that The Commoner will be readable if the editor will learn to think cohesively and write coherently. Returning the compliment, it may be said with truth that the North American will begin to be a useful paper when its proprietor shows as much love for the public generally as he now shows hatred for Mr. Quay in particular.

## The Commoner.

The Observer of Guthrie, Okla., reproduced entire the first page of The Commoner containing the editorial entitled "A Democratic Duty." The editor appreciates the compliment paid him by those who quote from the columns of The Commoner.

Numerous republican organs commend Senator Hoar's plan to maroon the anarchists and let them run their own island. This is all very well, but what about allowing the people of other islands who are not anarchists to do the same thing?

The Lick observatory informs us that the velocity of the Nebular movement is 36,000,000,000 miles an hour. That is fast traveling, to be sure, but it is not to be compared with the velocity of the republican party in getting away from the constitution.

The Washington Post has difficulty in finding words to express its commendation of the president's message. A few months ago the Post experienced no such difficulty in expressing its opinion of the gentleman who now occupies the presidential chair.

Two inquiries have been received recently asking whether President Johnson was impeached. No; articles of impeachment were presented by the house of representatives, but the senate refused to impeach, seven republicans voting with the democrats in the negative.

Through a typographical error in a former issue, the clubbing price of The Commoner and The Pilgrim was given as \$1.00. This should have been \$1.35, as it appears in this issue. Also, all subscriptions for Literary Digest in any of our clubbing offers must be new—renewals not accepted.

At Jamestown, N. Y., George M. Guntner was indicted on the charge of being a public nuisance because he tried to organize the wood-workers into a union. Mr. Frank Mott, his attorney, succeeded in convincing the court that it is not yet a public crime to endeavor to associate the laboring men together for their own protection.

In connection with the editorials which have appeared in regard to debating societies, it is proper to suggest that the Success Club Bureau, Washington Square, New York, is organizing debating societies all over the country. Any person desiring information on the subject can address the club at the above place.

A California reader disputes the statement made by Senator Jones of Nevada to the effect that the increased output of gold "has accomplished what bimetalism would have accomplished." He points to the fact that prices in general have not yet been raised to the bimetallic level and that there is no apparent prospect that they will be.

When the president reads the New York Herald's criticism of Secretary Gage's recommendations on the currency question, he will be glad that he didn't discuss the money question in detail. The republicans generally prefer broad and sweeping statements to definite and specific plans. Their policies are like eggs of doubtful age—they look better scrambled.

The staid and respectable—if not always unbiased—Associated press occasionally condescends to stoop to humor. In reporting the Boston election it said: "In South Boston two prominent republicans were arrested on the suspicion of having worked repeaters. This was the only unpleasant feature of the day." It must have been unpleasant—arresting republicans engaged in repeating.

Governor Yates of Illinois has issued an appeal to the people of his state for contributions to aid the Boer women and children who are suffering in the British reconcentrado camps. Governor Yates is entitled to credit for this appeal, and it is to be hoped that it will meet with a very generous response. It would be well also if every other governor in the United States followed the Yates example.

A reader asks me to give, for the benefit of a political opponent, my reasons for resigning my commission in the army. The reason was stated in the resignation, which was forwarded to the department on the day the treaty of peace was signed.

Half of the volunteers had been mustered out, and it was apparent that the remainder would be assigned to police duty. I felt that I could be of more service to my country in opposing the imperialistic tendencies of the republican party than I could in performing the routine duties of a regimental commander in time of peace.

A reader of The Commoner asks where information can be secured in regard to the banking question. Insofar as the question relates to the national bank, one of the best works on that subject is the Financial Catechism and History of Financial Legislation in the United States from 1862 to 1896. This, in paper cover, can be secured for fifty cents from C. Vincent, 612 So. 13th st., Omaha, Nebraska.

A reader of The Commoner asks what relation Porto Rico and the Sandwich islands are to the United States. Porto Rico is a subject territory enjoying such local self-government as the president and congress choose to give, and has no representative in congress. The Sandwich islands stand in the position of a territory and have a representative in congress.

They are now talking about organizing an association of farmers to compel railroads to give lower rates on transportation. If the farmers would combine at the polls they would have no trouble in securing reasonable freight rates, but as long as they vote the republican ticket and turn the government over to the control of corporations, they will find it difficult to secure protection against extortion by any association which they can form.

It is announced that President Roosevelt has declined to accept on behalf of the government Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$10,000,000 in the form of bonds of the steel trust. For this act Mr. Roosevelt is entitled to hearty commendation. It will not do for the government to become either creditor or stockholder in a trust, and recognition of this fact doubtless impelled the president to insist that the Carnegie gift must be in some form other than the bonds of a trust.

Mr. Walsh, the republican banker who is running the Chicago Chronicle in the interest of the republican party, openly indorses the republican position on the Philippine question and says that we cannot desert "the people of the Philippine islands to anarchy, dictatorship and invasion for conquest and reconquest." Having indorsed the republican position on the money question and the trust question, Mr. Walsh's paper ought not to be able to deceive democrats any longer.

Some of the papers which defend imperialism are also describing Jim Hill as a public benefactor and apologizing for the consolidation of the trans-continental lines. There is a similarity between the arguments which justify a colonial policy in the orient and the arguments which defend a railroad monopoly in the northwest. Both systems are based upon the theory that a few people are divinely appointed to do the developing and that the rest of the people are condemned by fate to be developed.

Today the faithful democratic editors of Nebraska will meet in Columbus to perfect an organization. All editors of democratic newspapers in the state are cordially invited to be the guests of the city of Columbus on this date, and nothing will be left undone to contribute to their pleasure. In the evening the citizens will tender the visitors a banquet. The Commoner hopes to see a large attendance and the organization of a strong association that will tend to the strengthening of the democratic cause in Nebraska. That much good will result from a strong organization goes without saying. There ought to be a similar organization in every state.

It is stated in a Chicago dispatch to the Washington Post that Governor Yates has been called to Washington by the president, and it is intimated that the latter resents the Boer proclamation issued by the governor a few days ago. It is also stated that republican politicians "not tied tight to the governor" (that means men who are tied more tightly to the president than to the governor) unite in condemning the proclamation as impolitic and unwise. The British consulate at Chicago accuses Governor Yates of issuing the proclamation with the desire that it would help him become United States senator. Well, no matter what the cause was, it would be fortunate if more republicans had an ambition that would lead them to express sympathy for the Boers.