

The Commoner.

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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscriptions that began with the first number of *The Commoner* will expire in January as shown on the wrappers on the papers. As it requires the same work to handle a renewal that it does a new subscription, renewals should be sent in without delay to protect the subscriber against the possibility of missing a number of the paper.

The Filipino found a Payne tariff law in his Christmas stocking.

The Charles Gates Dawes senatorial boom seems to have grievously infringed upon the groundhog's copyright.

Governor Shaw hesitated; perhaps he was looking for the ulterior motive.

They forced Gallilio to recant, but they could not control his mental reservations. But General Miles refuses to even recant.

If not barred by the statute of limitation, perhaps President Roosevelt would reprimand Colonel Roosevelt for that round robin affair in Cuba.

The people know the men behind the guns at Santiago, and they now want to know the men behind Maclay in the navy department.

Lillian Nordica says the government owes her \$3,000,000, but with a full knowledge of Uncle Sam's slowness in paying such claims we advise her to sing for it.

The chief difference between the Dingley tariff and the Payne tariff is that the people who pay the Dingley tax had a slight representation—very slight—when it was framed.

The Washington Post is severe on the "party organs." Yet the Post is having a hard time of it trying to back-track on its Roosevelt record without colliding with itself.

Patrick Henry said—but Patrick Henry was an old fogey who believed in independence, government with the consent of the governed and no taxation without representation.

Talk about amending the constitution should be postponed until a commission has time to investigate and report whether there is enough left of the document to sew a patch to.

The coal trust indignantly denies that it is selling American coal in France cheaper than it is selling the same kind of coal in American cities. It merely offered to sell it cheaper in France.

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The Chicago Tribune is a good newspaper, but it is open to one criticism. It is difficult to tell whether its disquisitions on the tariff are meant to be serious or intended as filling for its humorous department.

Charles Emory Smith has left the postoffice department and "Historian" Maclay has been pried loose from the navy department, but the literary fellows are still represented in the government employ by John Hay.

Representative Hepburn is due for a reprimand for having admitted that the democrats forced the republicans to declare for free Cuba. The premature utterance is not confined to the army and navy.

It is a pity that the president did not go a-hunting just before he wrote the trust portion of his message. The excitement of the chase might have put more strenuousness into his discussion of the trust question.

The difference between the trusts and the people is this—when the trusts want anything from congress they keep working until they get it; when the people want anything they make one try for it and then spend a year or two wondering why they did not get it.

Some of the readers of *The Commoner* are calling attention to the contrast between the advance notices and the president's performance on the trust question. But it must be remembered that a trust magnate, when once aroused, is bigger than a bear and more savage than a mountain lion.

By keeping all of the Philippine taxes in the insular treasury and drawing on Uncle Sam's treasury for expense money, Commissioner General Taft manages to figure out that the Philippine treasury has a surplus. With this basis to figure from he easily demonstrates that the Philippines are a source of profit.

As I intend to move to the country on the 19th of March, my residence at 1625 D street is for sale. While I prefer to occupy the house until March 19th, possession can, if necessary, be given at any time. Those who contemplate locating in Lincoln for the education of their children or for any other purpose are invited to call or correspond.

Judge Dunne said that Judge Hanecy had recourse to a suit for libel against the Chicago American, but Judge Hanecy has taken no steps in that direction. This recalls the story of the man who complained that another man had called him a liar. When asked what he was going to do about it, he replied: "Nothing. I'm afraid he'll prove it if I stir the matter up any more."

Ex-Governor Shaw, the new secretary of the treasury, argues that because the railroads control the number of cars they use, therefore banks should be permitted to control the volume of money used by the people. Whether he takes this position because of his bias in favor of banks or because of his ignorance of the money question is immaterial, the fact that he holds such views shows that the people at large will not be considered during his administration of the treasury department.

A Canadian reader of *The Commoner* inquires in regard to the legal ratio between gold and silver in the United States. The American gold dollar weighs 25 8-10 grains, while the silver dollar weighs 412 1-2 grains (both metals being 9-10 fine). This makes the ratio between the weight of the dollars sixteen to one. The law of 1792 made the ratio fifteen to one, but in 1834 the ratio was changed to sixteen to one by reducing the weight of the gold dollar. The weight of the silver dollar has not been changed, but is the same now that it was when the first silver dollars were issued.

Anarchists want no government and some would herd them on an island. Trusts object to being governed, but it is to be noted that no republican has suggested the island remedy. It seems that republicans prefer to give the trusts the whole continent.

The editor of *The Commoner* receives numerous inquiries in regard to statistics of production, importation, exportation, etc. The quickest way to secure such information is for the individual to write to his congressman or United States senator. These being in Washington and having access to all the departments and publications can secure anything desired in the way of statistical information.

If any one disputes the principle involved in the initiative and referendum, let him inquire whether we do not now indorse the principle when we submit constitutional questions and other important questions to the people. The closer the government gets to the people the more sure is its foundation and the more free from corruption is its administration.

The readers of *The Commoner* were duly informed when ground was broken for the residence which I am building near Lincoln. It is now time to report progress. The foundation is in and the walls are above the grade, so that work can be resumed as soon as spring opens. The barn is practically completed. In order to be on the ground while the house is being built, we have decided to move into the barn on my birthday, the 19th of March, and occupy it until the house is completed.

Some of the republican papers are speaking unkindly of Senator Wellington. Among republican leaders it seems to be an offense for a public man to have a conscience. Senator Wellington honestly opposed imperialism and militarism, and he allowed his convictions to control his political conduct. He will lose his place in the senate, but he will doubtless enjoy his exile more than he would enjoy fellowship with the republicans if purchased by the suppression of what he believed to be right.

As the renewals come in they are usually accompanied by commendation of the work which *The Commoner* is trying to do, and these commendations are duly appreciated. A Minnesota democrat says of *The Commoner*: "It is a publication of great value to democrats. I have read it during the past year with great pleasure and profit. I write this letter for the purpose of lending you the humble encouragement which a few friendly words may give." Another reader, speaking through the columns of the Columbia (Mo.) Herald, says of *The Commoner* that it "occupies a unique place among American newspapers. It covers ground occupied by no other periodical; I know of no other publication where these great questions are discussed so fairly."

The editor of *The Commoner* has been very much cheered by the fidelity and fighting qualities shown by the Pennsylvania democrats. The republicans are in absolute control of the state and run things with a high hand, but scattered over the state are a multitude of loyal democrats who go down to defeat regularly and as regularly rise and renew the fight. In 1896 the democratic ticket received more than four hundred and thirty thousand votes in the state of Pennsylvania in spite of all the terrorism and coercion employed. If any one thinks that the Chicago platform has no followers in Pennsylvania, let him compare by counties the vote this year with the vote in 1896. With the exception of Philadelphia county and thirteen other counties where local influences prevailed, the union ticket polled less votes than the democratic ticket polled in 1896, notwithstanding the large number of anti-Quay republicans who supported the ticket this year.