

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

One Year .....	\$1.00	Three Months.....	25c
Six Months.....	50c	Single Copy.....	5c
In Clubs of 5 or more, per year.....	75c	Sample Copies Free.	
		Foreign Postage 52c Extra.	

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to **The Commoner**. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

RENEWALS.—The date on your wrapper shows when your subscription will expire. Thus, Jan. 31, '05, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1905. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give OLD as well as the NEW address.

ADVERTISING rates furnished upon application. Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

## RICHARD L. METCALFE.

On the first day of May, Mr. Richard L. Metcalfe, for many years editor-in-chief of the Omaha World-Herald, severed his connection with that paper to accept the position of associate editor of **The Commoner**. Since the establishment of **The Commoner**, Mr. Metcalfe has been an editorial contributor, but he will now remove to Lincoln and devote his entire time to this paper. Mr. Metcalfe stands in the front rank of American journalists and has earned an increasing reputation for ability, courage and fidelity in the advocacy of democratic principles. Among his friends—and they include all who know him—he is familiarly addressed as "Met" and his name affixed to a newspaper story is a guarantee of its fairness and accuracy. The quality of his democracy may be judged by the fact that he was unanimously chosen a delegate at large to the Kansas City convention and was the Nebraska member on the resolutions committee. On another page will be found his picture and a report of the non-partisan dinner tendered him on the eve of his departure from Omaha. Having been intimately associated with Mr. Metcalfe in politics for fifteen years and in editorial work for nearly six years, I know whereof I speak when I say that I have strengthened **The Commoner's** claims upon its readers by securing his services.

W. J. BRYAN.

Doubtless Mr. Bigelow was quite prominent in the opposition to postal savings banks.

The railroad magnates are trying to make it appear that they make less than the beef magnates.

If that battle between Rojestvensky and Togo is equal to the advance press notices it will be something of a hummer.

The difference between "can" and "will" is defined in Mr. Edward Atkinson's declaration that "a woman can dress on \$65 a year."

It took many years to find the remains of John Paul Jones. Does anybody know where republican revision of the tariff lies?

The small boy will take little interest in the commercial trend of the day until some concern corners the angleworm industry.

Democrats who will circulate blank primary pledges for signature will be supplied with the necessary blanks upon application to this office.

The primary organization aims to give the people an opportunity to express their opinions instead of leaving the matter to selfish interests.

Mr. Garfield is examining a set of Standard Oil books for the purpose of ascertaining the net cost of refined oil. But has he "the" set of books?

The St. Paul Daily Globe has suspended publication. The Globe was a "democratic" organ that almost invariably supported republican policies.

Coincident with hoisting the price of beef another notch the trust points to Mr. Garfield's report. The beef trust is developing a vein of sardonic humor.

Somehow or other the public is not quite satisfied with Mr. Rogers as a witness to Mr. Rockefeller's honesty.

Mt. Shasta, Calif., is throwing out clouds of mud. It must be that the old hill imagines itself a regular republican campaign committee.

Mr. Garfield says he is going to the very bottom of the oil business. We object. The trouble lies in the other direction, Mr. Garfield.

It is said that the Japanese language contains no "cuss words." This may explain why the Japanese usually win—they couldn't express themselves if they lost.

Wisconsin's legislature is awfully scandalized. A member has actually had the temerity to announce that he is on the floor for the purpose of representing the people.

The Chicago Review suggests that in view of the success of "good crops trains" and "good roads trains," a "good citizenship train" might prove a good investment.

Rev. Washington Gladden still clings to the opinion that there is very little of the odor of sanctity about one of those Standard Oil "American Beauty" rose contributions.

Secretary Shaw asked for a coachman, and the civil service commission gave him an ex-gravedigger. The secretary is at a loss whether to take it as a joke or as a sign.

A Boston minister recently preached a 40-minute sermon on "The religion of the trust." A sermon on "The Christianity of the trust" would have lasted about thirty seconds.

The embezzlement of several million dollars to speculate in wheat by Mr. Bigelow is only one of thousands of similar cases. The gambling craze is responsible for most of the financial crimes of the day.

"Look at the legislature!" shrieks the Houston Post. What's the matter with it that those of us with legislatures of our own should stop to look at it? Has it paused long enough to do something for the state of Texas?

The Chicago Chronicle is growing hysterical over the "Bryanite socialists." Can it be possible that the owner of the Chronicle sees grave danger ahead for his monopolistic ventures?

Some people are inclined to blame Mr. Lawson for the flurry in Equitable circles. They are the people who are most often mentioned in the discussion of the Equitable scandal.

Speaking of the demise of the St. Paul Globe the Minneapolis Tribune says: "It was better than its party." It will be noted, however, that the party still lives and is not wearing heavy mourning.

The New York World is terribly worried lest government ownership entail the rule of bosses. This is calculated to make Messrs. Aldrich, Rockefeller, Frick, Cassatt, Rogers, Depew, Knox et al smile broadly.

The railroads that went through government receivership a few years ago were vastly benefited by government control. The railroad magnates who oppose government regulation of rates or public ownership should talk about that fact for a while.

F. G. Bigelow, the defaulting president of the First National bank of Milwaukee, was president of the American Bankers' association last year. In his annual address he pictured "the ideal banker." He could not have missed his ideal farther by shooting in the opposite direction.

While condemning the crime of President Bigelow, let us not overlook the crime of other men who speculated in a commodity that is of prime necessity to the public. Men who speculate in the necessities of life are guilty of a moral crime, even though our lax laws do not make it a criminal offense.

"Four per cent on the capital invested," is what the railroad managers are claiming in their efforts to prevent government regulation of rates. Pity the poor stock and bondholders of those roads bonded and stocked at from 300 to 1,000 per cent more than the actual cost of building the roads!

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican comments on the fact that some of the religious papers are less sensitive than the secular papers in regard to the Rockefeller contribution. This is to be regretted. It is impossible for religious papers to do much in an ethical way while they say as one of them recently did: "We only wish that they (the Rockefeller contributions) were larger, more numerous and more widely distributed."

"No one needs be robbed by a trust!" declares the Lincoln, Neb., Star, and then intimates that all one needs to do is to refrain from buying goods made by a trust. How easy! All one has to do is to quit eating meat, buying clothing, buying medicine in case of sickness, having laundry work done, buying breadstuffs or canned goods, going to the theatre or traveling on the railroads. The Star is deserving of great credit for discovering an easy method of "busting the trusts."

In a recent issue of **The Commoner** reference was made to one J. B. Corey, a coal operator, who rushed to the defense of John D. Rockefeller and based his defense on his own sales of coal to the Standard Oil company. The Commoner added: "He speaks of Mr. Rockefeller as if he was expecting another order." Mr. Corey writes to **The Commoner** to say that he has not been for five years "in the coal business nor in a position to receive, expect or desire an order from the Standard Oil over any other company." The correction is gladly made. Mr. Corey demands evidence of one single act of wrong doing on Mr. Rockefeller's part. He is respectfully referred to Lloyd's "Wealth vs. Commonwealth," to Ida M. Tarbell's articles on the Standard Oil and to Henry Rogers' recent admissions in regard to the acceptance of rebates.

There is one argument in favor of the eight-hour day that social economists often overlook.

Modern machinery has increased output to a degree undreamed of a decade ago. The result is that vast stocks of goods are accumulated in certain seasons, and then comes a season of industrial depression that lasts until these vast stocks are sold. The shortening of the work day will have the effect of providing employment for more wage earners, and to that extent lessening the liability of lack of employment. Labor unions are not advocating the eight-hour day for the sole purpose of securing shorter hours for those who work; they are striving to find employment for those who have no hours to work.

The death of Joseph Jefferson removes the last of the old school of actors who accomplished so much for the American stage.

Passing of a Great Actor

It is not enough to say of Mr. Jefferson that he was a finished actor. He was far more than that—he was a student, a thinker, an artist and an exemplary citizen. His was the art that made for good, and no one ever left the theatre in which he appeared without feeling the better for having sat in his presence. His ideals were always high, and he spent his life in trying to achieve them. With the knowledge of the strong efforts he made it is only a tribute to the loftiness of those ideals to know that he himself admitted that he fell short of achieving them. Not only was the stage bettered by his connection with it, but the country was made better by that connection. He won a foremost place in the hearts of the people, and his death will be accounted a personal loss by lovers of the pure and lofty in dramatics.

The suspension of the St. Paul Globe has brought out considerable comment. There is, however, really no cause for surprise. The Globe was known

The St. Paul Globe as the official organ of railroad interests, and its editorial utterances were the utterances of

James J. Hill. Pretending to be democratic, it only used the democratic cloak to hide its corporation proclivities. If ever there was a time that the people could be successfully deceived by this sort of thing, that time long since passed. The reading public long ago learned to distinguish between newspapers that represent public interests and newspapers that represent private interests, and the suspension of the Globe merely proves that the people are growing tired of supporting newspapers that oppose public interests. The demise of the Globe is one of the greatest tributes that has been paid to the loyal democracy of the nation in a generation.