

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Uncle Les Shaw has met the deficit and he is its.

Mayor Weaver seems to have caught the gas grabbers in his little web.

It appears that the Philadelphia city council was already a long ways past praying for.

Having discovered what they can do, perhaps Philadelphians will now proceed to do some more of it.

It seems that the gas grabbing gang of Philadelphia has been pretty thoroughly Rojestvenskied.

Had "Boss" Tweed been a citizen of Pennsylvania he might now be sleeping beneath a fine monument.

The New York courts have decided that false mercantile rating is a crime. Now for over-capitalization and too much stock irrigation.

"Trim the tariff" is Secretary Taft's slogan. The beneficiaries of the tariff are making strenuous preparations for the trimming of Taft.

By the way, during all this chorus of praise to the fathers of large families why not have one or two little strains about the mothers?

Secretary Shaw says it is difficult to explain the deficit. What Secretary Shaw really means is that he would rather not admit the real reasons for the deficit.

Mr. Parry says the efforts of labor unions to reduce the hours of work is "confiscation." What does Mr. Parry call the trust efforts to curtail output and increase prices?

The report that the canal commission will not buy any ships at present is an indication that the "standpatters" have done some tall hustling about since that famous order was issued.

John Weaver, mayor of Philadelphia, is the man whom the righteous people of that city prayed for so earnestly a few months ago. And now John Weaver is fighting for the right like a veteran.

A railroad manager declares that Iowa's rate regulating laws have made it impossible for any really great cities to be built on Iowa soil. If this makes any Iowan sad let him look at Philadelphia and cheer up.

Philadelphia councilmen want to take the liberty bell to the Portland exposition. The taxpayers of Philadelphia would like to keep it at home long enough for it to become an object lesson to the councilmen.

A reader commenting upon the article on "A Remedy for the Trusts" republished from Public Opinion says: "I may say that if we did not have *The Commoner* we in darkest Massachusetts would be left wholly ignorant of much that is going on politically." It is the purpose

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of *The Commoner* to assist those who desire to inform themselves upon political events and their significance.

To the state of Delaware, Greeting: Please note what the aroused citizenship of Philadelphia did to "Gas."

Those Moros would better go to organizing big trusts and making regular contributions to the g. o. p. campaign funds. Several sizeable contributions might convince the administration leaders of their thorough pacification.

The Minneapolis Journal insists that Luther Burbank should experiment with the rhubarb plant with a view to inducing more of it to appear in the pie. And there is the strawberry and the shortcake, too.

A thief in Milwaukee stole a toothbrush, retail price 15 cents, wholesale price about 5 cents, and in less than a week after his theft he began a jail sentence of one year. About the same time a Milwaukee banker stole \$3,400,000. The banker is not even in jail.

The Ohio republican platform is a plain evasion of President Roosevelt's freight rate regulation program. The convention endorses the enforcement of "existing laws to stop all unjust discriminations," etc. President Roosevelt wants some special legislation on the subject.

The Minneapolis Journal says: "Mr. Slason Thomson, a transportation expert, has been compiling statistics to show where the money goes." Is the esteemed Journal sure of that? Is it not more probable that Mr. Thompson is compiling statistics for the purpose of not showing where the money goes?

It is reported that Baron Rosen will succeed Count Cassini as Russian ambassador to this country, and that his task will be to change the tide of popular sentiment in favor of Russia. The czar could accomplish that much easier by making some wholesale changes in his government's treatment of its subjects.

The postal deficit will amount to \$12,000,000 for the fiscal year, the largest deficit in the history of the department. The deficit is attributed to the extension of the rural free delivery, losses in carrying second-class matter and excessive charges by railroads for transporting the mails. The remedy is simple—restrict the rural free delivery and the second-class privileges. Under no circumstances must the railroads' charges be interfered with.

The notice of the funeral of Mrs. Jacob A. Riis contained this request: "Friends are requested to send no flowers, but give the money instead to the poor."

**Help For the Living** That is worth thinking about, and acting upon. If the spirits of our dead look back to us, will they not rejoice more at the sight of hungry ones fed and naked ones clothed than at the sight of costly flowers withering to decay upon their tombs? The smiles of those to whom the opportunity to smile is seldom given; the rejoicings of those to whom the opportunity for rejoicing seldom comes—these will be more welcome tribute to the memory of the dead than all the flowers that might be heaped upon their graves.

The people of other states may be interested in knowing who the Nebraska gentlemen were who traveled down to Washington to assure the senate rate investigating committee that "the people of Nebraska are well satisfied with present rate conditions." It may enlighten the residents of other states to know that one of the eminent Nebraskans was Mr. Peter Jansen, one of the largest sheep raisers and feeders in the west. Another was Mr. Hord, one of the largest individual cattle feeders and shippers in the world. Another was Mr. Gilchrest, whose line of lumber yards necessitates his shipping from 2,000 to 2,500 cars of lumber every year. These three gentlemen informed the committee that there was no demand for freight regulation. Perhaps not—from them. But would it not seem that men who have no desire to see freight rates reduced have certain concessions that give them an advantage over other shippers engaged in a smaller way, perhaps, in the same line of business? The men with the concessions and the passes went down to Washington to tell the com-

mittee that there was no demand for reform. The men without concessions and passes had to remain at home and dig up the money to make good the concessions given their more fortunate competitors.

The deficit of \$12,000,000 in the postal department for the fiscal year calls renewed attention to the outrageous manner in which the government is held up by the railroads in the matter of charges for the transportation of the mails.

**Why The Postal Deficit?** It is well known that the general public has to pay unfair prices, but the general shipping public escapes comparatively easy by the side of the government. The government pays about eight times as much, pound for pound, as the express companies pay on the same trains, and the government pays rent for the postal cars while the express companies pay nothing for the express cars. But every effort to secure fair transportation rates for the mails is effectually blocked by the railroads. When it is remembered that the government pays the railroads upwards of \$35,000,000 a year for transporting the mails the public may have a better idea of why the railroad managers take so much interest in electing congressmen and senators, and securing pliable officials in the various departments of the "P. O. D."

### THEY LEND A HAND

J. E. Owings, Milan, Ind., sends club of five subscribers for *The Commoner*.

A. L. Barnes, Patterson, Kans., writes: "I am pleased to hand you the enclosed list of six subscribers for *The Commoner* and money order to pay for them."

An Indianapolis, Ind., reader writes: "I am glad to be able to send *The Commoner* the attached list of twelve new subscribers. This club represents only a few hours work on my part. Also find money order to pay for the same."

R. V. Crawley, Statesville, N. C., sends a list of fourteen new subscribers and money order to pay for the club.

A New York City reader sends list of twenty-three subscribers, and says he thinks he can do better than this next week.

C. A. Wilson, Ransonville, N. Y., writes: "I enclose herewith nine subscription cards for nine subscribers to *The Commoner*. Six are renewals, and three new."

T. H. Maphis, Hatton, Washinton, sends eight subscription cards for annual subscriptions to *The Commoner*, five are new subscribers, and the remainder renewals.

Thomas Seal, Jasper, Mo., sends list of seven new subscribers to *The Commoner* with remittance to pay for the same.

According to the terms of the special subscription offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to *The Commoner*, will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase *The Commoner's* circulation:

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