

Editorials by Commoner Readers

A Marquette, Mich., reader—I spend almost all my time in the woods and am far removed from places where primaries are held, but I manage to get The Commoner once a week. I see where someone suggests that the postmaster general, Mr. Cortelyou, resign his office in view of the disclosures made at the insurance investigation. Why should he resign? He has done the work for which he was selected. If I live for another year I will be out of the woods and will try my hand in getting some subscribers for The Commoner. If the democratic party wins in 1908 it will be through the good work The Commoner has done and is still doing.

C. C. Smith, Arlington, Kans.—Mr. Long was in Colorado in 1904 for his health, and perhaps he explained himself to the co-operative and to Peabody how he should vote on the labor and freight question. Perhaps he will explain to the people of Wichita how he stands on these questions after he goes to Colorado and has his prescription filled again.

William Hanna, Magrew, Ohio—The republicans defeated the bosses last year by nominating Roosevelt for president and he carried Ohio by over 250,000. This year the democrats defeated the bosses in their party by nominating Pattison for governor and he carried the state by nearly 50,000 over Governor Herrick, the republican boss' candidate. A change of over 300,000 in twelve months means something. It means there is at least half that many voters in Ohio the bosses can't boss, and that the buyers can't buy; that the distillers and saloons can't control, and that even the corporation lawyers can't whip in. The bosses had everything in their favor, they had possession, all the money they could use to advantage, plenty of precedence, and every saloon in the state was a Herrick club and every man behind the bar a walking delegate for him without any regard to previous condition of color or servitude. They had the most perfect machine they ever had in the state; its very perfection helped to break it down. It showed the lines too plainly around their preserves and it separated the goats from the sheep too early in the season. There is another side to the election in Ohio. Governor Herrick says that in spite of all he had done for the people of Ohio they have been swept away from the moorings of truth by "a wave of prejudice and suspicion." A very grave charge—if it were true—against the conservative and thinking voters. Who did it? Thought is the flower of the mind. The result of thought is the fruit of the mind and we believe in this case it is good fruit. The election was carried by the disciples of Roosevelt, Bryan, Folk, LaFollette and that class of thinkers, and by the churches and temperance people. Neither one could have succeeded by themselves but let them not forget they can succeed every time they unite and fight to a finish, the trusts, the bosses, the rum power or other evils of our day. They can not succeed if they are democrats, Baptists, republicans, Methodists, prohibitionists or Catholics, and if they permit their creed, or the color of their hair to keep them divided on questions of right. Too many of us had concluded politics was too dirty for church people and other honest citizens, for it was run on the plan that politics is war in that it was right to deceive the enemy, to hire the Hessian and that, to the victor belongs the spoils. So we thought if we handled pitch we would be defiled. But we feel better and cleaner for having whipped them, filthy as they were, and we have learned that

it does not contaminate an American voter to mix in politics if his motives are clean clear to the bone.

C. W. Browne, Mica, Wash.—I would suggest as a cartoon for The Commoner, an elephant with two heads. On one head, as a driver, monopoly end of the elephant, Roosevelt in cowboy attire and with cattle whip. Back of Roosevelt, the democratic donkey with heels pretty close to Roosevelt's coat tail. At the head of the donkey, and holding his halter, the democratic public. Roosevelt says: "Darned if I know which way that brute is going now. If he comes any farther this way he'll step on me, surely, and I can't go back." Roosevelt and the republican republic are trying to drive the elephant over the road to tariff reform and government control of trusts. Monopoly is trying to ride him over President Roosevelt, and the democratic donkey is bracing Roosevelt so he can not go back. If I were an artist I would make a cartoon, but will sent outline sketch so you can see my meaning. You see I have revised it some. Roosevelt says, looking at the trunk of the elephant: "If this is a head I lose; if it's a tail I win." In the meantime the elephant is hitched to a stand pat post.

Robert R. Jones, Syracuse, N. Y.—I write to express my delight and admiration for the many good and excellent productions of your paper. It is a truism, "nothing is more odious than that insensibility which wraps a man up in himself and his own concerns and prevents his being moved with either the joys or the sorrows of another." How true are the thought magnets, by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Thought is a magnet, and the longed-for pleasure, Or boon, or aim, or object is the steel, And its attainment hangs but on the measure Of what thy soul can feel.

So too, all grand and noble human thought both inspires and delights the student of the world's history, and vast achievements of men and women. I've been eagerly watching for Mr. Bryan's letters—what he sees, the peoples he comes in contact with on his trip around the world. We can't dispute but what Mr. Bryan "has fought a good fight;" that he hasn't finished his course and that he has "kept the faith." And may he illuminate The Commoner with his brilliant thoughts couched in his eloquent language is my wish.

M. V. Koger, Mooresburg, Tenn.—Paul Morton, president of the Equitable Life Assurance society, stated a few weeks ago that "people did not want cheaper insurance but, safe insurance" and further "that insurance had become an acknowledged investment, one in which a man does not have to wait for death before any one can obtain any good from it." This latter statement was flatly contradicted by Richard A. McCurdy, president of the Mutual Life Insurance company, before the legislative investigating committee recently. President McCurdy said that "whoever went into insurance for an investment was a fool" that "it only profited the families of those who died." Although President McCurdy has been charged with gross inconsistencies, in his testimony, he nevertheless stated a truth here. If any one reason more than any other could be given for the wholesale corruption lately exposed in the Old Line insurance societies it is that insurance costs too much. In what other way, and by what other means could such a hoard of vultures be fattened except by the unnecessary surplus in the treasuries of these companies?

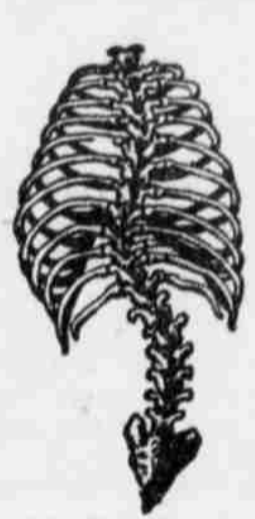
Anyone who will take the trouble to count interest at 6 per cent payable annually can never say that insurance in the Old Line companies is a good investment except by early death. As long as insurance is kept at the present high rate policyholders need not be surprised to see their hard earned money squandered and misappropriated by these hypocritical defenders of national honor. Some of the companies have been remodeled and started anew, but what consolation is there in the Equitable? There is Tom Ryan with his \$2,500,000, owning a majority of the stock. Can anyone be so easily duped to believe that this unscrupulous Wall street financier is in the Equitable with all this sum for the

small consideration, \$3,500 a year, which the law allows him? His majority stock gives him power to appoint the president and trustees. He appointed Paul Morton as president who while vice president of the Santa Fe gave rebates to the amount of \$1,000,000. Is it reasonable to believe that he would not again imitate the Romans when confronted with the interests of the great and ambitious Ryan? There is an old saying that when a man is once deceived he can justly blame his deceiver but when again deceived by the same one or in the same manner there is no one to blame but himself. It looks very much like the 600,000 policyholders of the Equitable are fixing to incur self-blame.



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