

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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### THE MEAT BILL

Representative William Lorimer, republican, of Chicago, was, during the recent congressional session, charged by republican papers with working in the interests of the packing houses on the meat inspection bill.

These same papers point with pride to the meat inspection bill as it passed congress.

Mr. Lorimer delivered a speech at Chicago Tuesday, July 17, in which he declared that the meat inspection bill was the work of Chairman Wadsworth, Speaker Cannon and himself; all of whom were repeatedly charged by republican papers with working in the interests of the packing houses.

"Things are mixed" on this meat inspection subject. In his letter to Chairman Wadsworth, Mr. Roosevelt charged Senator Beveridge with having misled him with respect to the contents of the meat inspection bill. After the bill became a law, Mr. Roosevelt sent the pen with which he approved the bill to the Indiana senator, saying that he is entitled to it because it is his measure. And now come Lorimer and claims that the bill was the work of Wadsworth, Cannon and Lorimer. It may be said that this claim is supported by the fact that in the bill, as it finally passed congress, the packers secured practically everything they wanted.

### JUST LIKE JONES

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch says: "If the new government bonds will inflate the national bank currency lower prices are again to be postponed." Commenting upon this editorial statement a reader of The Commoner writes: "Colonel Charles H. Jones was driven from the Post-Dispatch because he believed in the 'quantitative theory.' Will not Mr. Pulitzer have to hire a new editor for the P. D.?"

### CUT IN TWO

The Harrisburg (Pa.) Telegraph, republican, says: "The man who would cut the purchasing power of the American dollar in two has as good reason for being a democrat today as in 1896 or 1900." Has not the purchasing power of the American dollar been cut materially, if not in two, since 1896? Will the Telegraph tell its readers what made this cut?

### NO UNREST?

In a recent newspaper interview Speaker Cannon said: "The truth is there is very little unrest in this country just now." If "Uncle Joe" would make a few inquiries among his Danville neighbors, he would learn something to his advantage.



They Must Lead the Horse to Water--But Will He Drink?

## AMONG THE LEBANONS

### Mr. Bryan's Twenty-eight Letter

Before writing of the Holy Land, I shall devote an article to the week which we spent among the Lebanons. While the trip from Beyrout to Baalbek and Damascus is included in the advertisement of Palestine tours, the places visited are not so intimately connected with Bible history as those of Judea and Galilee.

Beyrout, the seaport for this section of Syria, has the best harbor to be found on the east coast of the Mediterranean, and the city is naturally a place of considerable size and importance. The population is estimated at about one hundred and fifty thousand, and the residence portion covers the foothills of the Lebanon range. The principal industry is the production of raw silk, the mulberry groves extending as far as the eye can reach.

The road from Beyrout to Baalbek climbs over the Lebanon range, reaching in one place an altitude of about six thousand feet. The view is one of rare beauty—the winding shore of the Mediterranean, the terraced mountain sides and the snow clad peaks combine to form an impressive picture. The far-famed cedars of Lebanon, some sixteen feet in diameter, still crown the higher summits, but few of them are visible from the train. A well built carriage road follows the same general course as the railroad, but the latter now monopolizes the traffic. The main line of the railroad runs to Damascus, but in the Beka, as the valley of the Leontes is called at this point, a branch has been built to Baalbek, where a wonderful temple once stood. The city was founded so long ago that history does not record its beginning. Arab-tradition peoples this district with the earliest of the Bible characters. The tower of Babel has been located at Baalbek by one tradition, while another has Cain build-

ing a fortress there as a refuge. It is certain that the city ranks among the oldest known to history, the location being probably determined by the presence of a very large spring whose waters would supply a great population. The name of the city (but a few thousand inhabitants are to be found there now) indicates that it was the center of Baal, or sun, worship. It is believed by those who have made research that an ancient temple, built by the Egyptians or Phoenicians, occupied the ground now covered by the ruins of a later temple built by the Romans. It is this latter temple which has drawn tourists from all over the world. It was begun during the first century of the Christian era, and the work upon it continued for more than two hundred years. It was dedicated to Jupiter and the Sun, the worship of these two deities being combined. The Romans even adopted the Greek name, Heliopolis, for the city, but the Arabic designation, Baalbek, has survived.

This great temple was laid out upon an immense scale. First a hill was built, filled with subterranean chambers, and upon the massive walls which separated these chambers the superstructure was reared. The temple was approached by a staircase one hundred and fifty feet wide and entered through a hexagonal court two hundred feet in diameter. Next came the great court, nearly four hundred feet square, with an altar in the center. Both of these courts were open, but had broad colonnades around the sides supported by granite pillars brought from the upper Nile. These colonnades were ornamented with carvings and contained two rows of niches, three hundred and thirty altogether, formerly occupied by images. Our guide, Mr. Alouf, whose pamphlet on Baalbek gives the re-