

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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"Old Madrid" is feeling very frisky these days.

If William January is entitled to a pardon in July, why not in May?

The "Ohio idea" seems to be to work 'em both ways from the middle.

The Foraker-Taft truce in Ohio looks very much like a "peace at any price" stunt.

So the Carolina republicans want to furnish a vice presidential candidate. Dark horse?

"The warpath" at the Jamestown exposition is still playing a bad second to the Ohio "warpath."

The Ananias club is the result of presidential failure to follow the advice to "speak softly."

Having failed of election to the senate Colonel Colt of Rhode Island doubtless feels like a "23" calibre.

"I rarely meet an American gentleman," says Boni de Castellane. They must have him spotted.

Mr. Kipling's latest poem, "The Sons of Martha," is not calculated, to sell any of his books.

"Secretary Taft has Ohio in his pocket," says a republican exchange. And Boss Cox on his conscience, too.

When asked if Mr. Roosevelt would again be a candidate Senator Penrose said: "I don't think." Quite correct.

Now there is a demand for an investigation of the watch trust. Something wrong with the works in the case?

The silence following the Roosevelt-Harriman incident may be the result of a little diplomacy on the part of Mr. Taft.

Mr. Bryce says America has no poets. That's what a man gets for depending on the magazines for his information.

Rhode Island is worrying along with only one senator, but New York has a couple it will doubtless be glad to loan.

Mr. Ryan has a mortgage on the Jamestown exposition, but the chances are that not enough will be left over to interest Mr. Cor-

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telyou when the next contribution collection stunt is pulled off.

Eight years before the canal will be completed. Plenty of time to pick out your porch swings and rocking chairs.

John W. Gates admits that he has lost a lot of money, but doubtless feels that he has one big bet left in his pocketbook yet.

The treasury surplus is growing rapidly, but a better salaried congress knows a thing or two that it can do with it.

St. Louis thought she had a million until she counted them. That's what she gets for not counting during the big exposition.

Mr. Taft refused to increase wages in the canal zone. Why didn't we think to put congress in the zone a few months ago?

The governor of North Carolina is a prohibitionist. So is the governor of South Carolina. And it is still a long time between.

In view of the lateness of the spring, the man who appears with the first Panama hat is clearly entitled to a Carnegie hero medal.

Five thousand cases of palm leaf fans arrived at San Francisco from Hong Kong one day last week. There is optimism for you.

"QAZqaz WSXwsx cybnm," remarks the Cincinnati Enquirer. And we were told that the republican differences in Ohio had been settled.

Chicago's ex-chief of police is under indictment for having collected campaign funds. The secretary of the treasury is still at large.

Insanity experts testified that a Boston man did not know where all of his money went. But why the need of expert testimony along that line?

Nikola Tesla says he has the power to invent anything he pleases. Wish he would please to invent a forward spring that couldn't hop backwards.

A successful flying machine has not yet been invented, but tariff reform comes pretty near it. Tariff reform has been up in the air for a long time.

The eminent politician who talks about running Speaker Cannon for the presidency on a tariff revision platform is due for examination as to brain storms.

Secretary Taft says the canal will be finished in eight years. This is long enough for the manufacture of porch swings to make a big haul from the commission.

The unparalleled reign of graft in the building of the Pennsylvania capitol, now being recalled by the investigating committee, ought to make the state democratic.

Mr. Carnegie continues to talk peace, but the interest on his gold bonds in the steel trust comes largely from the profits of armor plate made under government contract.

The Sioux City Journal says: "It is an indication of alarm when Mr. Bryan's Commoner spits question." The Journal might go into hiding until it gets over its scare.

"Digging is all that is necessary," remarks Speaker Cannon, referring to the canal job. The commissioners will see to it that Uncle Sam "digs" frequently and deeply.

The Pennsylvania legislature has appropriated \$25,000,000 for good roads. In Pennsylvania that good roads appropriation is likely to lead to another state house graft.

When President Mellen submits the proof that his railroad owns property in excess of its outstanding stocks, bonds and mortgages, will he accept the statement for taxation purposes?

The Pennypacker libel law passed in 1903 by the Pennsylvania legislature has just been repealed. This ends the first attempt made in recent years to muzzle the press of a state. Another democratic principle has been vindicated. "Error is harmless where reason is left free to combat it."

## Paragraphic Punches

White House etiquette for visiting Wall street magnates calls for hands up and both hip-pockets turned inside out.—Cleveland Leader.

The man who died after a visit to the theatre must have been a vastly better critic than most of the patrons of our theatres.—New York Sun.

If John Temple Graves has not several gold bricks among his curios, he has enjoyed miraculous luck for a man who talks like he does.—Houston Post.

There is something significant for the city in the fact that the new mayor of Philadelphia was sworn in on All Fools Day.—New York Evening Sun.

It must jar the Filipinos, Cubans and such to see Taft, who is sent to them to bring peace, sent into his home state to bring war.—Buffalo Times.

Mr. Loeb may become a street railway man. Somehow it would seem natural to hear him request the people to step lively.—Philadelphia Ledger.

It is evident that the Cubans are rapidly becoming Americanized. Policemen were called in to protect a baseball umpire in Havana the other day.—Ohio Sun.

Once upon a time a Charleston man called on the president and that night had a horrible nightmare. He dreamed that he was a liar.—Charleston News and Courier.

If, as Mr. Watterson says, Governor Hughes is "the Tilden of the republican party," the democrats may yet gain the presidency by kidnapping it.—Washington Herald.

If the automobile manufacturers are making good their claims it's a cinch to find out where most of the available supply of money has disappeared to.—Springfield Union.

Says Mr. Taft: "I ask what is it that a Porto Rican does not enjoy that an American enjoys?" Why, the sense of being an American citizen, Mr. Secretary.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Some day the president will hurl the lie at a fighting man, and then the country will perceive why the constitution provided for a vice-president.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The alarming news reaches town from the Potomac that "Uncle Joe" is the victim of a virulent presidential fever. We await a denial with anxiety.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

One of the most thrilling points of these revelations is as to the country's narrow escape from having "Jimmy" Hazen Hyde as its diplomatic representative in France.—Washington Star.

That Mexican earthquake was far enough south to make people think a little about what would happen if one like it strikes the isthmus after Uncle Sam gets his big ditch dug.—Detroit News.

Says H. H. Rogers, reproachfully: "Outside the Christian religion petroleum is the greatest boon humanity has ever known." The man actually seems to think he created petroleum and bestowed it on mankind.

### THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge which is printed on page 15 of this issue.