

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN  
Editor and Proprietor.  
RICHARD L. METCALFE  
Associate Editor.

CHARLES W. BRYAN  
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If the price of meat really fell it must have taken an awful bounce.

Mr. Burton is now a greater expert than ever on the deep water question.

That Mississippi river pilot is not the only institution that has survived a suspension.

At any rate there is to be no stringency in the circulation of American warships.

Those canine policemen in New York are warranted not to be of the "yellow dog" variety.

Now guess if you can the name of the man Chancellor Day blames for the present financial flurry.

By the way, how would a "liberal" construction of the constitution help in times like these?

Mr. Burton has two sources of consolation—a seat in congress and that letter from the president.

If Japan insists on financing that big exposition she will have to quit building warships for awhile.

Senator Thomas C. Platt announces that he will be able to express himself when the senate convenes.

"Green hats for men" is a fashion note in an eastern paper. But wasn't the adjective transposed a bit?

But, could Wall Street do any better with an elastic currency than it has done with an elastic conscience?

"Why not cheaper meat?" plaintively queries the Washington Herald. Answer: Cudahy, Armour, Swift, et al.

Now what explanation can Secretary Loeb make for allowing it to happen while his chief was sauntering through the canebrakes?

If all other consolation fails Mr. Burton may comfort himself with the thought that the people preferred to keep him in congress.

There are 350,000,000 eggs deposited in the cold storage warehouses of Chicago. As for us, we would prefer the certificates to the eggs.

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## Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., November 11.—There will be at least three bills introduced into congress at its first session in December putting the raw materials of print paper on the free list and repealing the tariff on paper. In all probability one will be presented by a prominent republican. Two or three democrats have bills to the same effect. It is a curious fact, and it shows the way in which business men are affected by politics, that I have word from a number of owners of republican newspapers that they can not support a bill expressing their views if introduced by a democrat. So there arises the question whether the republican newspapers, or rather their owners, are more desirous of getting the legislation which they approved at their meeting, adopted, or more afraid of allowing the democratic party to get some credit for doing what they desire. Perhaps in the end it might be just as well to fight out this issue of free paper for a free press without regard to the politics of the man who introduces the bill.

The two elections held on Tuesday, the 5th of November, which had the most importance were those in New York county and in Cleveland, Ohio. The reason they were important is that President Roosevelt was very seriously involved in both—and was very emphatically beaten in each. Some months ago Mr. Roosevelt set forth to purify republican politics in New York. He saw there in control a man named Odell, former governor of the state, and a political associate of one E. H. Harriman. Mr. Harriman had been described by Mr. Roosevelt at divers times as an undesirable citizen and as a practical man. In the latter capacity he had been invited to the White House to contribute his mite to the Roosevelt campaign fund. The fund having been used, Mr. Harriman was turned down vigorously and emphatically. Herbert Parsons was made the arbiter of the Roosevelt destinies in New York. Mr. Parsons arranged to tie up the republican organization with the Hearst organization. He made a fusion. Hearst got six nominees, the republicans five. Incidentally the offices handed over to Hearst were those that paid the biggest salaries or fees. It is a matter of almost absolute knowledge that this fusion was made with the knowledge and consent, and upon the advice of the president. It was a trade made by the man who was put in control of local politics in New York by Theodore Roosevelt, and made with the knowledge of his sponsor.

It is the most utter nonsense to say that Mr. Roosevelt was ignorant of this New York fusion. Every step made in it was taken by the men in New York to whom he has given control of the republican party organization there. The of the republican party organization there.

A very militant democrat, Tom Johnson, has been elected for the fourth time mayor of Cleveland. Johnson is what is called a democratic democrat. He is a democrat to the very last degree of democracy. He carries the democratic maxim of "Equal rights to all, and special privileges to none" to its logical conclusion. He has been a member of congress and while there admitted that as an individual he was a party to a trust. And after having so admitted, very cheerfully voted against the interests of that trust. He asserted then that as a business man he would take advantage of every law which would give him an opportunity to enrich himself at the expense of the people. But that as a public man he would fight so far as he was able to annul the laws by which he and his kind might prosper. I remember very well that in 1897 Tom Johnson controlled the Brooklyn street railroads. Yet he went out to make a fight for Henry George as a candidate for mayor of Greater New York even though he knew that George believed absolutely in the municipal ownership of railroads. Johnson is a successful business man, and a radical democrat. Being both he is ridiculed by certain organs of public opinion for being a radical democrat. If he were an unsuccessful business man, he would be ridiculed just as harshly for his political

views. As nearly as it can be figured out from the cheap talk of newspapers of this sort the man who is thoroughly successful in business, and expresses his political views with frankness and earnestness is only a demagogue; the man to whom fortune has not come, but who still fights for his opinion is merely one of the down and outers striving to get back into more prominence by his devotion to a party or a cause. Let any one look over the criticism made upon public men in the democratic party from Mr. Bryan down, and he will see that this tendency to criticize the rich man who is democratic or the poor man who is democratic is almost universal.

That is part of the lesson taught by the triumph of Tom Johnson in Cleveland. This is another portion: Mr. Burton, his opponent, has been for years his personal friend. More than that he has during all the time that Tom Johnson controlled the politics of Cleveland, or of Cuyahogo county, he has been sent to congress without any material antagonism on the part of the democrats of that district. Mr. Burton is recognized as one of the men of great ability in congress. Not merely does he represent his district with force and with industry, but he is known as one of the small group of representatives who are really able to affect legislation. Mayor Johnson has repeatedly said that Burton's election was good for the city. Now comes Mr. Roosevelt and intervenes once more in a local issue. He urged Burton to be a candidate against Johnson. Burton said so himself. Taft urged him to be a candidate. This, too, Mr. Burton declared. But with the full force of the administration back of him, and with the record of Johnson's often repeated approval of his congressional policy, Mr. Burton has been beaten, and beaten badly.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

### IS MR. ROOSEVELT RETREATING?

(Continued from Page Five)

agitation against wealth, of demands for more laws to punish malefactors, of fresh plans to punish and to destroy.

Mr. Roosevelt is not to make any more vehement speeches like those at Provincetown, and at towns along the Mississippi, at least, not in the near future. Instead of causing new indictments to be brought wholesale against more trusts and corporations the law will be allowed to take its course against those now before the courts. One or two cases will be passed through to final decision by the supreme court of the United States.

These decisions, if in favor of the government, will furnish the president with legal weapons so effective that no further agitation or denunciation will be needed to curb other unlawful corporations.

No one has ventured to urge upon the president that he abandon his chosen policy, but friendly supporters, men of loyalty but calm judgment have endeavored to show him better and safer paths of procedure. Mr. Roosevelt has listened to this advice, but more particularly has he been influenced by the sudden and overwhelming cry of sound business distress from many cities of the country. As long as it was merely New York speculators in trouble he forged ahead with all the greater abandon. But when the country became affected he paused.

### WHAT CAN IT MEAN?

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat (rep.) has an editorial entitled "The Race Will be Free for All." The Globe-Democrat says: "It is possible that, on the opening ballot, as many names may be presented to the convention of 1908 as were before the convention of 1888. The people have a habit of selecting candidates for themselves, through their specially chosen representatives, and not delegating the work six or eight months beforehand to politicians or public officers. In the work of choosing a candidate 1908 will accept no dictation from 1907. It is time for the leading republican papers of the country to speak right out and say that the matter of the selection of the presidential candidate is still to be decided, and that there will be an open and a free race for all the aspirants."

Now what in the world is the Globe-Democrat driving at? Can it mean that it does not intend that Mr. Roosevelt shall select the republican candidate? Or can it mean that it is not willing that the special interests shall name the candidate?