

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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**THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.**

The Easter hat is in sight, but the price is not.

It seems that some agile Taft supporter in Ohio cut the rope of the opposition fire alarm.

A St. Joseph laundryman is named Dam Li. He must be a standpatter and a third term advocate.

The negro plank in the Ohio platform may suffice to hold the colored vote after the Brownville affair, and again it may not.

"Vituperous and venomous outpourings," says Congressman Nicholas Longworth. That is what associations will do for a man.

"Ohio solid for Taft" was the headline, but Messrs Foraker and Dick are quite sure they know where there is a hollow place.

The report comes that President Roosevelt is studying Esperanto. That may be easier than hunting through a dictionary for new expletives.

Secure in their own gerrymander the republicans of Ohio and Pennsylvania are very angry over the suppression of votes in southern states.

Mr. Simeon Ford is the latest to be classed among the "undesirables." Mr. Ford made the mistake of trying to be facetious on a very solemn subject.

William E. Curtis now asserts that "Taft is labor's friend." However, did you ever see a candidate who was not "labor's friend" during the campaign?

Colonel Goethals says there is no gold in the canal zone. This little matter, however, will be corrected before Uncle Sam gets through putting his gold into it.

The American Tariff League has evidently overlooked an opportunity. It has not yet explained that the recent panic was due to the demand for tariff reform.

The Nebraska democratic platform is worrying a few people down east. It isn't the wording of the platform so much as the evident intention of its framers to enforce it.

A lot of the officeholders explain their violation of the order not to take an active part in politics by saying that they are so busy in politics that they never are in their offices.

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Uncle Joe Cannon's boomers have overlooked something. They should point to the fact that as yet no one has named a cheroot after him and endeavored to sell it for ten cents.

"Mythomaniac" is the substitute for the "short and ugly word." The beauty of it is that you can apply it to a man without danger on account of its being so new and not yet fully understood.

The Fowler currency bill is so carefully drawn that the bankers can do almost anything they please under it, and then justify themselves by pointing to the currency bill's provisions.

Some eastern papers are surprised that Senator Owen of Oklahoma should know so much about finance. They forget that men like Owen made the great west, instead of being made thereby.

The Atlanta Georgian mourns because it will be twenty-eight years before we have another February with five pay days. O, cheer up. Forty-one days more and we'll have a month with five pay days.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger is commending the Philadelphia police for driving the newsboys off the streets. But can you blame the newsboys for not carrying a paper that the public refuses to buy?

J. Pierpont Morgan complains because the New York World did not verify that interview before printing it. Strange that Mr. Morgan should not be better acquainted with the New York World, and living right in the same town, too.

### THE LILLEY CHARGES

Congressman Lilley submitted some charges against the Electric Boat company a few weeks ago and, a committee having been appointed to investigate, he has proceeded to present his case. Undaunted by the fact that the committee refused to allow him to have an attorney, he has presented his charges and given the names of a number of persons who were approached by the company.

Mr. Lilley goes into detail to show the means resorted to by the company to secure a monopoly of the business, and he charges that the company has already secured an excessive profit of more than a million of dollars, and that it will secure a million dollars more if the present plans are carried through.

As Mr. Lilly seems to be prepared to make out his case, the public will watch the developments with interest. It is not often that the light is thrown upon the methods employed by the tax-eaters who gather about legislature halls, and it will have a wholesome effect if the committee makes a thorough investigation and exhibits to the public the methods by which these favor-seeking corporations attempt to influence the action of congress.

## Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., March 16.—It is rather interesting to note that while the newspapers of the United States, regardless of politics, are pleading with this congress for the abolition of the tariff on wood pulp and on print paper, the only men on the floor of the house who are giving voice to the demand of newspaper owners are democrats. The representative who thus far has made the most intelligent attack upon this duty, a duty that was described by the president as a tax upon intelligence, is Representative Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Omaha, who as the owner of a newspaper and a man who has been in the newspaper business from the time of boyhood, is able to speak understandingly on the subject. Mr. Hitchcock has spoken twice on the paper tariff. He has shown by personal experience and from communications in his hands from other publishers that owing to the tariff on paper and owing to the tariff on pulp the cost of paper to publishers has been almost doubled. I heard part of Mr. Hitchcock's speech, and as I write this I have in my hand the Congressional Record in which it is reported in full. Mr. Hitchcock spoke for the newspaper publishers of the country. I find that these gentlemen interrupted him with

endeavors to deny that print paper was higher today than it was ten years ago, or that the tariff had any effect on the price of print paper.

Mr. Dalzell, republican, of Pennsylvania, well known as the high priest of protection in congress.

Mr. Payne of New York, the leader of the majority in the house of representatives.

Mr. Bates of Pennsylvania, also republican, and also a famous defender of the doctrine of "standpat."

Not one republican said a word in favor of the proposition to restore to the newspaper business of the country some share of the prosperity which republican legislation has taken away from it in the last two years. Not a single word came from the republican side of the house to indicate that the men sitting there had any recognition of the fact that the paper trust, protected by the tariff, was so extortionate in its demands upon the newspapers of the land that the business of publishing a newspaper has become almost precarious from a financial point of view. Mr. Herman Ridder, president of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, is in Washington today and has given out an interview on this subject which no doubt the press associations are carrying. - But there is no indication that what Mr. Ridder says or what the united newspapers of the land may say or do will have any effect upon a republican congress which is wedded to its high protection ideals.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

### JOHN R. WALSH SENTENCED

John R. Walsh, former president of the Chicago National bank, and owner of the Chicago Chronicle, who was convicted of illegal use of the funds of the institution, was denied a new trial by Judge Anderson in the United States district court and sentenced to serve five years in the federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth. The Associated Press report says: "As soon as the court had announced the refusal to grant a new trial, the attorneys for the defense entered a motion in arrest of judgment on which they argued for some time. Judge Anderson then promptly overruled the motion and sentenced the banker to five years in Fort Leavenworth. After overruling the motion, the judge, turning to the prisoner, said: "Mr. Walsh, have you anything to say why I should not now pronounce judgment upon you?" Walsh, without arising, shook his head slightly and the court said: "The character of the evidence and the character of the crime of which this defendant has been found guilty call for extreme judgment. The facts are, however, that this defendant is seventy years of age and that mere imprisonment is of itself so heavy a punishment in a case of this kind, I have concluded that the law will be satisfied with the minimum penalty, which is five years." The court further directed that all the counts in the indictment be served concurrently and further directed that the defendant pay the entire cost of the trial. An application was immediately made to Judge Grosscup of the United States circuit court of appeals for a writ of supersedeas which was granted and Walsh was released under bonds of \$50,000 pending the hearing of his appeal."

### TO OPEN JOHNSON HEADQUARTERS

An Associated Press dispatch under date of St. Paul, Minn., March 12, follows: "Governor Johnson's presidential headquarters will be established in Chicago, and may be extended to include New York and Washington. Frank A. Day, secretary to Governor Johnson, and F. B. Lynch are now in Chicago looking for suitable quarters. Their trip may include New York. Governor Johnson admitted today that Mr. Day was in Chicago on the headquarters proposition. He was not sure, though, that such would be opened. He also admitted that if headquarters were opened and an aggressive campaign decided upon, that those in charge would open additional headquarters in New York. The governor, however, disclaims any connection with what is being done or any knowledge of what line of activity is contemplated. Since the action of the state central committee in indorsing him for president, Governor Johnson's mail has increased to vast proportions, and the telegrams are many. Most of these come from the east. Very frequently conferences with eastern visitors are held. Whatever activity is being done in connection with Governor Johnson's presidential boom seems to be chiefly the work of interested friends. The only aid his excellency is giving is in the shape of non-interference."