

# Study Course for Commoner Readers

The Commoner receives so many requests for historical information and argument on subjects brought to public attention through current events that it is impossible to adequately answer all of these appeals.

To meet this need The Commoner will publish an educational series. These articles will be interesting to all Commoner readers as well as to those who may be engaged in the study of a particular question.

The initial article of this series appears in this issue of The Commoner and relates to the alien and sedition laws. This subject is pertinent at this time because the peculiar proceedings now being carried on against the New York World and the Indianapolis News provide a strong reminder of the alien and sedition laws. The history of these obnoxious measures is briefly set forth in this issue.

Next week this department will be devoted to the Carnegie pension fund for teachers.

It will not be possible, of course, to print all of the interesting data concerning the subjects dealt with but the articles printed in The Commoner may well serve as a basis for further investigation and discussion.

Because the subjects treated in this series will be of current interest it would be well if a club were organized in every town and precinct of the United States. This club should each week carefully investigate and discuss the subject dealt with in the preceding issue of The Commoner.

The result can not but be beneficial to all individuals participating in the study course and it goes without saying that it would be advantageous to our government, for when men carefully investigate public questions they will take the trouble to vote intelligently.

Reaching a large number of people The Commoner is, admittedly, an educational force. It would widen its sphere of influence not alone so far as respects the number of its readers, but as well in the degree of the service it may render to those who are already on its subscription list.

The Commoner would be glad to learn that an educational club along the lines suggested is

organized in every town or country precinct in the United States.

It will not be a difficult matter to organize such a club in every precinct for the reason that it does not require a large number of persons to begin with. If there are but two or three persons within a precinct ready at this time to undertake the organization of such a club let them establish it and while they will be greatly benefited themselves they may depend upon it that the organization will grow in numbers.

In The Commoner's educational series the tariff as it affects individuals will be dealt with in a particularly instructive way.

These subjects will be discussed:

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|---------------------------|--|
| Postal Savings Banks      | Recall of Public Officials                     |
| Guaranteed Deposits       | Commission Form of Municipal Government        |
| Imperialism               | Regulation of Railroads and Other Corporations |
| Colonialism               | Popular Election of Senators                   |
| The Rights of the State   | Income Tax                                     |
| State Wide Primary Laws   | The Trust Question                             |
| Inheritance Tax           |  |
| Initiative and Referendum |  |

Also other subjects upon which every American citizen should be accurately informed will be carefully dealt with in this educational series.

The democratic clubs in various precincts and towns might well be utilized as the nucleus for the organization of these educational clubs. In fact it would be well if every democratic club in the country adopted The Commoner's course of study. It would be difficult to over-estimate the excellent results that would follow the widespread movement along educational lines that would be possible through an organized and systematic effort on the part of the democratic clubs of the country.

Who will take the lead in the organization of the first one of these clubs?

As soon as a club is organized the fact of its organization together with its name and the names of its officers should be forwarded to The Commoner for publication in these columns.

very thing which the steel corporation had long wanted.

All of the stock which was carried in pool at the "business firm" in question was owned by very wealthy men. Such, for instance, as O. H. Payne and Leonard Hanna, of St. Louis, who is a multi-millionaire; and John W. Gates, who thinks nothing of "betting a million."

Very likely the president felt flattered that Messrs. Gary and Frick had gone to him personally, something after the manner that a child goes to its parent for a penny, to buy a stick of candy—and asked permission to buy control of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company; but this does not prevent the characterization of Mr. Roosevelt's act in suspending the operation of the federal laws in this particular case, as a scandal.

But what would interest Wall Street more than all of this, would be answers to some questions: Did J. P. Morgan & Co. buy the Tennessee Coal and Iron company from the "business firm" to whom Mr. Roosevelt referred? If so, what price did Morgan & Co. pay the "business firm" for Tennessee Coal and Iron stock?

What did the steel corporation pay Morgan & Co. for this Tennessee Coal and Iron stock? Is it a fact that the steel corporation did not want to absorb the Tennessee Coal and Iron? Tennessee Coal and Iron stock of \$30,374,725 par value was transferred to the steel corporation, and the steel corporation gave in return \$35,407,000 par value of five per cent bonds which at the time were worth very nearly the amount of the par value. So that the steel corporation actually paid about \$115 a share for its Tennessee Coal and Iron company stock.

Rumor has always said that the "business firm" sold its stock at a much lower figure. The real questions are: "Were there inside prices?" if so, "What were they, and who got the profits?"

The president did not suspend the operation of the Sherman act in the case of the Northern Securities.

He did not suspend it in the Standard Oil. But then the gun was long loaded for those men of great wealth.

He did not suspend it in January, 1907, in

the case of the Harriman roads. But then, just before Messrs. Harriman and Roosevelt had a public quarrel.

He did not suspend it last summer in the case of the New Haven. But then, the president only a few weeks before vituperated the president of the New Haven at the White House.

"Who can say if John Rockefeller and Harriman and Mellen had gone to get permission of the great father at Washington, that the Sherman act might not have been suspended in their cases?" This is the question that disturbs more than one captain of industry in New York.

## THE RAILROAD IN POLITICS

Colliers Weekly has an article by Mr. C. P. Connley discussing the record of Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire. Enough of it is given below to show the activity of the railroad in politics. Here are some extracts from the Colliers article:

"Boston, January 16, 1904.—My Dear Senator: I have this morning had a frank and satisfactory talk with Mr. Burnham, and I have suggested that he repeat it to you when he returns to Washington. I very much desire that you and he head the New Hampshire delegation to Chicago in June as delegates at large; and I am still more anxious that you shall retain your membership in the national committee, regardless of all efforts or wishes on the part of our friends in New Hampshire to succeed you in the office.

Yours truly,

"LUCIUS TUTTLE, President.

"Hon. J. H. Gallinger,

"Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C."

"It will be noted that the letter is signed, not by Lucius Tuttle, the Boston citizen, but by Lucius Tuttle, the president of the Boston and Maine railroad. It was a command, and was so looked upon by Gallinger, for when he failed of election to the office of national committee-man, he boldly exhibited this letter to some of his political friends as his excuse for running for an office which he had said he did not want.

"Within a week after Lucius Tuttle, as president of the Boston and Maine, gave his orders to Burnham, and—so that there might be no mistake—put them on paper and mailed them to Gallinger—nearly every newspaper in the state began, in diapason, an urgent editorial demanding that Burnham and Gallinger go to the national convention as delegates.

## THE GIST OF IT

"In New Hampshire the power of publicity has been largely destroyed. The only argument put forward in that state in favor of Gallinger's re-election is that he has become a power in the senate by reason of long service and seniority on important committees. That power and that service have been used, at every turn, to serve the corporations as against justice and fair play, and at the same time to solidify himself with the voters of New Hampshire. Gallinger goes on the principle enunciated on the witness stand by Frank Jones, who testified that men were a good deal like hogs, and that if you threw them a little corn they would follow you most anywhere.

"Downstairs in the corridor of the state capitol at Concord hang the tattered flags under which New Hampshire's sons fought for liberty. In the hall of representatives, upstairs, is the portrait of Daniel Webster. At the head of the stairway hangs the advertisement of the Boston and Maine. Gallinger's friends claim to have the written pledges of enough legislators to elect him. Is the Boston and Maine more potent than the memory of Webster and of the tattered flags?"

It would seem from this that the Boston and Maine railroad is in politics; it would seem, also, that the president of that road, although a citizen of Massachusetts, takes an interest in New Hampshire politics, and it would seem further that some of the republican papers take their cue from an alien political landlord.

It is interesting to see an eastern paper, and one of such wide circulation as Colliers, pointing out what democratic papers have been declaring for years, namely, that the favor-seeking and public service corporations are exercising a corrupting influence over the politics of the country.

## CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

Charles Stephens of Columbus, Kansas, writes: "Cherokee county, Kansas, claims the mule. Mr. Roosevelt carried this county by 2291 in 1904, while this year Mr. Taft carried it by only 72 votes."

## MR. ROOSEVELT AND THE STEEL TRUST

In its issue of January 12 the Wall Street Journal printed the following:

Boston—Adams, in the Boston News Bureau, says:

One of the most amusing things that has taken place in the past week has been President Roosevelt's answer to the senate on the matter of the benevolent assimilation of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company by the United States Steel corporation. Mr. Roosevelt states that he was responsible for every detail of the transaction, and is cognizant of all the facts. He told the senate (using a letter to Attorney General Bonaparte as a vehicle) that Messrs. Gary and Frick had come to him in the dead of night, stating that a calamity would soon take place in New York, unless the steel corporation should be permitted by the president to take over the Tennessee Coal and Iron company. These gentlemen advised Mr. Roosevelt that a business firm in New York would go to the wall, unless the Tennessee Coal and Iron company were taken off their shoulders. They did not tell Mr. Roosevelt, however, the name of the firm, nor the fact that other institutions of many times the magnitude of the stock exchange house in question, had already gone to the wall.

Messrs. Gary and Frick, according to the president, said that the United States Steel corporation did not really want the Tennessee Coal and Iron company, but merely had the philanthropic interest in the matter. So Mr. Roosevelt, in order, as he says, to "save the situation" (after the situation had already been saved) told Messrs. Gary and Frick that he would hold his hounds in leash—or something to that effect—and let the merger go on.

All this is enough to make a truck-horse of the steel corporation laugh. Everybody knows that the steel corporation had suffered the pangs of hunger for years because it could not get control of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company and that the control of that company was the