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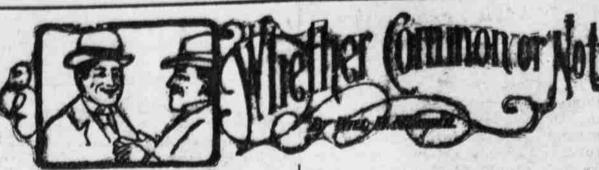
The Commoner.

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 18



"I have for several years greatly enjoyed your articles on the past, and hope to have the pleasure of reading many more in the years to come."

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The Dispatcher

They sing the sounding praises of the daring engineer

With hand upon the throttle, keenly gazing straight ahead. They always hail him hero; say he's ignorant of fear;

But he's only minding orders, and his signals, white or red.

But the man who bears the burden is the man you never see-Seated in a stuffy office far above

the noisy street; brain with figures buzzing Busy

nimble fingers on the key, And his eyes are never lifted from

his long train-order sheet.

That must meet at Perkins' Switch:

- Nos. Two and Twenty-seven,
- Rushing onward like the wind,

But the crews will mind their orders-

Safe the passengers behind.

praise financial captains who They have organized the lines

Into mighty railroad systems over which vast treasure rolls;

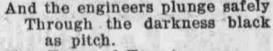
Reaching factory towns and forests, climbing up to distant mines; Stretching over plain and mountain, bringing in the golden tolls.

But the men who keep trains running never pose for public gaze.

Theirs to do amid the clatterthat to them is music sweet-Of the noisy sounders clearing all the long steel-girdled ways, As they bend to mark the figures on the long train-order sheet. Nos. Thirteen and Eleven

Meet and pass at Bilikens' Bend. No. Two wait for the "flyer"-

side of your pants. Then, again, the rapturous joy over that paper And it's Nos. Four and Seven collar caused you to forget the puffy elegance of that nainsook shirt bosom that was only partly con-



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Take the switch at New Rostend. Just a flimsy bit of paper.

Words by the dispatcher sent: And the tourists in the coaci a Rest in safety and content.

The papers sing the praises of the managers who glide

O'er the road in private coaches. looking worried, looking wise:

Giving interviews in plenty, filling local men with pride

As they wave them recognition while the special onward flies. But the man who makes for safety

of the magnate and his crew Is the man that the reporters seldom have a chance to meet. He's cooped up within his office, far

removed from public view, Growing stooped, and gray, and

wrinkled, over his train-order sheet.

You must slow down at Cohasset;

Weakened bridge - reduce your speed.

Keep control until you pass it. And the engineers give heed. Just one man-you never see him-

Bears alone the mighty load; And his orders carry safely Millions o'er the busy road.

Things That Have Disappeared

The more you think about it the more there are of them. Since first the architect of this department. started to mention the "things that

Longing

The sun of May Shines bright today. And I would like to haste away From pen and book, And with a hook Just bob for bullheads in a brook.

The budding trees And balmy breeze Are making me feel ill at ease. I'd like to get Away from fret And once more get my fishline wet.

My office work I'd like to shirk And haste to where the fishes lurk O'er moor and fen I'd walk again, Far from the haunts of busy men.

Would that I could Through field and wood Walk once again-you bet I would. Alas, grim fate Says I must wait. And toil for coin to pay the freight.

Political

"Why does Bilkins wear such a worried look?"

"O, he heard that the office should seek the man and he's worried be cause he can't understand why he' not been tagged."

Taboo

Mention of the "sweet girl graduate." Reference to the dinner we get on housecleaning day.

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