

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor. CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher. RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor. Editorial Rooms and Business Office 224-270 South 12th Street

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., as second-class matter

Table with subscription rates: One Year \$1.00, Three Months .25, Six Months .50, Single Copy .05, Clubs of Five or more, Per Year .75, Foreign Postage 12 Cents Extra

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate...

DISCONTINUANCES—It is found that a large majority of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before expiration...

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 31, 08, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1908.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give OLD as well as NEW address.

ADVERTISING—Rates furnished upon application.

Address all communications to THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

It seems that the new Philippine tariff has the approval of everybody save the Filipinos.

There are a lot of people who will be surprised to learn that lemons have not been on the free list.

Among other by-products of the Standard Oil trust may be mentioned a few representatives and Nelson W. Aldrich.

After all, isn't it rather restful to have an opportunity to decide a few unimportant things without executive advice?

The great trouble with the enhanced price of flour is that it will be so long up after the price of wheat takes a tumble.

When Rhode Island adopts the Oregon plan of electing United States senators the Aldrich tail will cease to wag the Uncle Sam dog.

No one need call the attention of the wheat raisers to the fact that the record-breaking price did not arrive until after they had sold their wheat.

It has been close upon sixty days since the Ananias Club was recruited by the addition of a member recommended by the nation's chief executive.

Republican congressmen who vote for increased tariff taxes after promising revision downward should take good care that hides are well protected.

That French reporter will have to have something better than an ex-president's endorsement before he can pass the inner guard of the Ananias Club temple.

Denial is made that the oil schedule in the new tariff bill was aimed to benefit the Standard Oil trust. Had the truth been admitted the shock would have been fatal.

The Lincoln (Nebr.) Wageworker suggests that in the event Mr. Carnegie is determined to pension somebody he might look up the widows of the men who were slaughtered in his steel mills.

The judge who decided that a two-cent fare did not furnish adequate return on the investment of the Missouri railroads should take the people into his confidence and tell them just how he arrived at the amount of said investment.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

THE REFORM IN MAINE

(By Roland T. Patten, of Skowhegan, Secretary of the Maine Referendum League.)

Maine has the initiative and referendum as a part of her constitution, and in a form perhaps the best, thanks to our good friends in other states, that has ever yet become law. How did it come about? Well, chiefly because the trend of things is all that way.

When I reflect how the trend toward direct legislation has come, the change in the last ten years, I am really astounded. About 1894 I heard something of the idea as made use of in Switzerland. I had been a believer in municipal ownership and was losing courage on that line, discovering that, under irresponsible representative government, it didn't so much matter whether things were publicly owned or privately owned, as the ringsters and bosses got all there was in it anyway.

I wanted the initiative and referendum bad. I was impatient and in no mood for delays. Used to the wiles of practical politics, a county official and a member of the inner ring of the dominant party in my section, the first thing I did was to go to the county boss and offer him a plank to be presented at the county convention, then about to assemble.

Well, the direct legislation crowd knocked at the door of the seventy-third legislature, early in the session, with those four planks, from the four state platforms, adopted by the four Maine parties in the preceding campaign.

removal" (of the capital to Portland) or against it. From our standpoint this was a "good thing." We lost no opportunity to "push it along." None of us cared about the location of the capital. They might have located it on an island, off the coast or on the Canadian border, for all we cared.

This was in the winter of 1907, and the amendment was voted on at the election of September, 1908. It was adopted by a vote of about two to one. There was a steady campaign against it all the time and the mails were filled with opposition literature, just before election day, but it was of no use.

IT IS COMING

We favor an income tax as part of our revenue system and we urge the submission of a constitutional amendment specifically authorizing congress to levy and collect a tax upon individual and corporate incomes to the end that wealth may bear its proportionate share of the burdens of the federal government.—(Income tax plank Democratic National Platform 1908.)

In the campaign of 1908 the democrats demanded an income tax and favored a constitutional amendment as the means of securing it. Now the republicans are considering the question, although they refused to include it in their platform.

KINDLY EYES

If you look on the world with kindly eyes You will see nothing in it to despise, In all that hitherto seemed low and mean You will see virtues heretofore unseen

But, loving all your world and by your world Beloved, forgiving and forgiven, furred Safe in dear hearts—all that will be your prize If you look on the world with kindly eyes.

—Kansas City Times.

Having opposed the guaranty law in Nebraska during the campaign the republican leaders in that state are now declaring that the new law is not nearly as good as the one they wanted.