

# The Commoner.

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## Liquor Dealers Protest

One of the officers of the Chicago Liquor Dealers Protective Association writes The Commoner condemning the narrowness of the saloon keeper who discontinued The Commoner because of its editorials on the liquor question, and calls attention to the attitude of the liquor dealers association on the subject of disorderly houses. The president of the association, Mr. John W. Maskell, says: "It is very gratifying to be able to announce that Mayor Busse has directed his chief of police to forbid the sale of liquors by the owners of disorderly resorts and to forbid the use of women boosters by saloon keepers. This means the absolute divorcement of the liquor traffic from prostitution and every man who runs a decently conducted saloon should aid and uphold the mayor in his efforts to enforce this decree."

This is very good. It is gratifying to have the influence of the Chicago Liquor Dealers Association thrown on the side of the mayor in the enforcement of the law against the sale of liquor in disorderly houses, but the argument taken by the liquor dealers association proves that the position is taken not because of any righteous indignation of the business now condemned, but because the existence of the disorderly houses in connection with the saloon give the "anti-saloon orator" a chance to hold the saloon up as "a horrible example." In fact, the attitude of the organization on the subject is very well shown by the statement in the letter of the president of the association that "it will be no longer possible for those pompous and swell-headed hypocrites and Pharisees who visit disorderly houses to explain that they were slumming, etc."

However, it is gratifying to have the representatives of the saloon business assist in any sort of reformation, even if they go into the reform from fright rather than from a genuine interest in reform. If they were far-sighted they would have seen long ago that they are themselves responsible for the growing opposition to the saloon. So many of those engaged in the business have been actuated simply by the desire to make money out of the business regardless of the harm done, that they have brought the entire business under condemnation. Even those who would like to have liquor sold under reasonable conditions and under restraints that would reduce the evils of intemperance to a minimum are unwilling to be in partnership with those who stand for the business as it is generally conducted.

### WHY NOT WALL STREET?

The New York World, a paper that has always been partial to Governor Hughes says:

"Senator Grady hints of a mysterious \$800,000 republican campaign fund in 1908 as one of the reasons why there is no legislation at Albany to curb Wall Street gambling.

"Whatever the explanation may be, there seems to be complete harmony between Wall

Street and the republican organization. So far as Albany is concerned, Wall Street is left free to reform itself or not to reform itself, as it sees fit.

Plainly there will be no Wall Street legislation worth while unless Governor Hughes takes the initiative, and none at all unless he acts soon. Nothing can be expected from the leaders of the senate and assembly. In a way this is Mr. Hughes' last chance as governor of New York to safeguard legitimate business and insure prosperity against the evils of unrestricted speculation.

"It is not necessary to argue with Governor Hughes about conditions in Wall Street or about the character of most of the transactions on the New York stock exchange. It is not necessary to remind him that the stock exchange has not yet carried out the most important of the very mild recommendations which the governor's commission made nearly a year ago. It is not necessary to tell him that trade and commerce and industry are quite as much at the mercy of lawless stock gambling as they were when this commission was appointed, and that Wall Street is still exploiting the savings of the people for its own profit.

"The governor has shown a commendable desire to bring the telephone and telegraph companies under the authority of the public service commissions; but here is a stock exchange the par value of whose monthly transactions averages more than fifteen thousand millions, yet it is not even incorporated, much less regulated.

"It may be too late for Governor Hughes to carry out a far-reaching plan of Wall Street reform; but he can begin the work, and there is no more important task at hand."

How does it happen that Governor Hughes, who has been so active against race track gambling, and who has not failed to see the importance of bringing telephone and telegraph companies under public authority, has been so blind that he could not see the importance of curbing the stock exchange. Where race track gambling affects one man, stock exchange gambling affects millions. Can it be that Governor Hughes failed to proceed against the Wall Street game for the same reason that he vetoed the two cent fare bill and helped to destroy the income tax?

### "WHY DON'T THEY RULE?"

The Commoner begins this week publication of the replies written by Commoner readers to Senator Owen's question, "If the people rule, why don't the people get what they want?"

This symposium is of more than ordinary interest. The question submitted by Senator Owen is among the most timely and important of all questions offered to the American people.

It is presumed that in our system of government the people do rule. The builders of this government believed they were building in such a fashion that the people might continue to rule. On every hand, however, one is met by the claim that something is wrong with the American government. In his speech in the senate, Senator Owen presented a long list of things which, admittedly, the people want but which, admittedly, they have not, so far, been able to obtain.

Republicans, democrats and men of all political parties should set themselves resolutely to the solution of this problem. Let the question be asked in every precinct, in every state of the union, "If the people really rule, why don't the people get what they want?"

Read The Commoner's symposium and then ask your republican neighbor to look it over.

Perhaps your republican neighbor can answer the question—to his own satisfaction.

### WORDS AND DEEDS

The Ohio democratic state convention defeated, by a vote of 1,099 to 254, the proposition to nominate a candidate for United States senator; then it inserted in its platform a plank declaring in favor of the election of senators by popular vote.

The convention had the opportunity to make its deeds square with its words—but it failed.

## Last Great Prize Fight

Governor Gillett and the people of California are to be congratulated upon the fact that the governor drove the Johnson-Jeffries prize fight from San Francisco.

This was one of the notable instances in history where public sentiment so crystallized itself as to become effective in a matter involving thousands of dollars to many individuals, as well as the opportunity for so-called sport among many additional thousands.

If we are to make real progress in the education of children we must sooner or later drop the prize fight from the list of our practices. If we are to make genuine progress in the effort to perpetuate peace between nations, we must make some progress in the effort to maintain peace between individuals.

It is not difficult to understand why men become worked up over a prize fight. Such contests stir the worst sort of passions in men and are even more harmful to the bystanders and to the reading public than they are to the principals in the fight.

There is nothing admirable about these great bruisers who go through a process of training to fit themselves for the giving and receiving of severe blows in order that they may win a few thousand dollars. The work they are engaged in was badly named when it was called the "manly art."

The fight will be held in the state of Nevada. The public sentiment that drove the contest from California was not sufficiently strong to prevent its taking place in Nevada. It is, however, safe to say that this is the last great prize fight that will take place on American soil. The intelligence of America has set itself squarely against this sort of "sport." Many of those who object to it find interest in reading of the encounter. Indeed, the story of such a fight is attractive to most men, as the fight itself would be interesting to a majority; and for this very reason it should be abandoned. Time is too precious for men who are seeking real progress to waste it in giving attention to a pastime that must be deteriorating to everyone who witnesses it or in, at least some degree, to everyone who reads of it.

Neither the black bruiser nor the burly pug is made of the stuff of which real heroes are constructed; and neither is entitled to the respectful consideration of the lovers of real manhood.

### A POPULIST MEASURE

An Associated Press dispatch, referring to the death of former Congressman John H. Pickler of South Dakota, says that Major Pickler introduced the resolution which authorized the first rural free mail delivery. That may be true but it was Thomas E. Watson, then a populist member of congress, who introduced into the house the first measure looking to rural free mail delivery. Mr. Watson's proposition was defeated because it was "a populist measure." At a later session, however, the plan was offered by a republican and it was adopted.

### EXPENSIVE

Joseph C. Sibley, republican nominee for congress in Pennsylvania, says that his renomination cost him \$40,698.83. Mr. Sibley received 10,466 votes and the New York World points out that each vote represented an expenditure of nearly \$4. Representative John Dalzell says that his renomination cost him \$9,200. Surely there is need for publicity with respect to campaign contributions—and publicity prior to election day.

### A CLOSE SHAVE

John Dalzell, Mr. Cannon's chief lieutenant, was re-nominated by the small plurality of 402. In one other Pennsylvania district Alfred D. Garner, another Cannonite congressman, was defeated by an insurgent republican. If Pennsylvania will not "stand pat" surely the old ship is leaking now.

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