### The Commoner.

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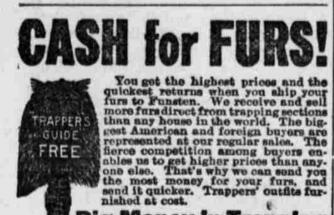
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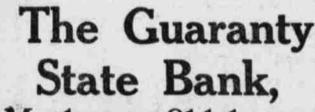
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# WASHINGTON NEWS

The national association of rail- ern railroad were not made defenway commissioners has adopted dants in the suit, as neither had been resolutions approving the recent ac- represented at the conferences of tion of the convention of governors the railroads where the "objectionof various states at Spring Lake, N. able 65 per cent contracts" were J., in authorizing the presentation to agreed upon. He added that neither the supreme court of the United was a stockholder in the Temple States of a brief supporting the right of states to regulate freight rates within their borders.

A Washington correspondent to California Outlook says: The Oregon direct legislation case, which was appealed by the telephone company, will be argued before the supreme court of the United States in this session, and a decision is expected soon. The appeal is based on the issue whether the constitutional amendment of Oregon, allowing the people to initiate laws and to pass on laws framed by the legislature, is contrary to the provision of the United States constitution that guarantees to every state in the union a republican form of government. The courts of Oregon, including the supreme court of that state. have decided in favor of the initiative, and the supreme courts of many other states have given similar decisions. As direct legislation prevails now in ten states, and is in use in several hundred cities, if the United States court should rule against it, there would be a serious upsetting all along the line. Affairs Times-Dispatch says: A discrepancy in many California cities would be thrown in great confusion. The feeling against practical democracy or the rule of the people is very strong among politicians in the eastern states, and many legal authorities have argued against it. But if the supreme court should find against it, the effect will be most unfortunate on western public sentiment.

The United States supreme court ago to correct. has taken under consideration the so-called "hard coal case" after two day argument by counsel for the government and for the principal railroads and coal-owning companies in the anthracite coal regions of Pennsylvania, charged with violating the Sherman anti-trust law. The main argument for the defendants was that it would be ideal to have the anthracite railroads and coal companies independent, but that close relationship between them was necessary because the railroads had to have tonnage assurance to recompense them for the expense of building into that region. James H. Torrey, for the defense, asked why the government had taken no action against independent operators who sold coal under 65 per cent contracts to coal companies, whose stocks were owned by the Pennsylvania Railway company and by the road company. "If these coal companies are free are to be debarred," said he, "it is Tokio. conceivable that the result of this proceeding may be to increase largely the coal companies of the Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario & Western and to shift the control of the anthracite market to persons other than the principal defendants and who may be presumed to be actuated by like motives." The closing argument for the gov- the national convention. ernment was made by J. C. McReyand the New York, Ontario & West-

Iron company, by which the government claims the Philadelphia & Reading, The Lehigh Valley, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, the Central Railroad of New Jersey, the Erie and the New York, Susquehanna & Western railroad companies, all entering the anthracite region, are held together in an illegal combination.

The national association of railway commissioners met at Washington and refused to adopt a resolution favoring legislation abolishing the express companies of the country by compelling the railways to take over the express business.

A general inquiry into the control by railway companies of the docking. wharfage and pier facilities at various ports of the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi and Atlantic coast points, including Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, Memphis, and Philadelphia, has been instituted by the interstate commerce commission.

A dispatch to the Richmond (Va.) of over \$3,288,271 between the material on hand and that called for by the books of the Washington navy yard, was shown by the inventory of that yard just completed, according to an announcement by Secretary of the Navy Meyer. This is the first inventory of record made at this yard within the last twenty-five years.

The discrepancy is attributed to loose bookkeeping methods, which Secretary Meyer set out some time

The Washington yard was the last to have the new accounting system





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established, the Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, N. H., Puget Sound, Mare Island, Charleston, S. C., Cavite and Olongapo yards preceding Washington.

The navy department officials stated explicitly that there was no indication whatever that moral turpitude was involved in the discrepancy, and that it undoubtedly was due to the antiquated bookkeeping methods.

After serving in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., for 20 months. John R. Walsh, the former Chicago banker, was paroled by President Taft into the custody of his son. Walsh had been sentenced to a fiveyear term.

It is reported that the Japanese New York, Ontario & Western Rail- ambassador to Germany, Viscount Chinda will be transferred in February to Washington to succeed Visto make contracts while the others count Uchida, who has returned to

> The Washington correspondent to the Chicago Record Herald sends his paper the following: Plans are being made for one of the greatest "harmony dinners" in democratic history at the meeting of the democratic national committee here in January to fix the place and date for

It is proposed to have the meeting nolds, special assistant to the attor- on Jackson day, Jan. 8, and to invite ney general. He outlined the relief all the democratic governors, all desired and answering Mr. Torrey, those who have been mentioned in he said the Pennsylvania railroad connection with the party's presiden-(Continued on Page 15.)

The above is C.E. Brooks of Marshall, Mich. who has been curing Rupture for over 30 years. If Ruptured write him to-day.

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