

# The Commoner.

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## The World Moves

Recent dispatches from Washington prove that the world moves. The house has at last come around to the Henry resolution with the exception of the personnel of the committee. The investigation is to go forward in earnest along the lines laid down by Congressman Henry.

Good! Now, on with the investigation. The house has just passed a bill applying publicity to contributions made to aid those aspiring to presidential nominations. Good again, and let us hope that the senate will caucus at once. The house has already passed a bill requesting the president to make public the recommendations, written and verbal on which the president appoints United States judges, and it ought to have passed the senate weeks ago.

Before this issue of The Commoner reaches the readers the house will have adopted an amendment to the postoffice appropriations bill compelling publicity as to newspaper ownership. This is the most important of all. Besides these there are several other reform measures in preparation, one restoring the strength that the supreme court took out of the anti-trust law by inserting the word "unreasonable" in it, another giving trial by jury in contempt cases where the offense charged was not committed in the presence of the court; still another limiting and regulating injunctions, and a fourth providing for less than a unanimous verdict in civil cases. When the program is completed the democratic house will have made a remarkable record in progressive measures; and its investigations have added to the value of its work.

It investigated Ballinger and drove him out of the cabinet; it has exposed the secrets of the steel trust, and revealed its strangle-grasp on the nation; and, it may yet turn the light on the anthracite coal trust. The house deserves congratulations. If we can make this much progress with a democratic house what could we not do with a democratic senate and a democratic president?

### PRESSURE CONTEMPLATED

It is quite evident that the advocates of the Aldrich currency scheme are planning to bring pressure upon congress. A deliberate deception is being practiced now in the attempt to make it appear that there is a western contingent that is trying to eliminate Wall street influence. The western contingent is working in perfect harmony with the eastern group of financiers, and a bigger bunco game was never planned. Not only are they resorting to deception, but there are indications that financial pressure is to be brought to bear upon the busi-

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ness men of the country and through them upon congress to force the passage of the bill.

The Commoner has recently received a letter which is supplied "privately to subscribers" from a news bureau in Washington. The letter is dated Feb. 10. It rejoices over the action of the democratic caucus in preventing an investigation of the money trust by a special committee. It then proceeds to review the situation and contains the following:

"If the public mind is thoroughly clear as to the merits of any bill, and such bill meets practically the needs of the country, any obstinacy as to giving it favorable treatment it is thought, might be nullified, by restraint of financial accommodation among the people's representatives by the banking interests.

"The supposition as suggested to us seems to be reasonable, that their needs in this way average along with other classes; hence, if they want liberal treatment, they must stand for good business laws. We have had it strongly intimated that the position of national legislators relating to money reform will be reminded of them before the fall elections, and their attitude fully understood before they received the people's verdict as to their suitability to legislate."

Here we have it plainly stated. Financial accommodation is to be denied by the banking interests as a means of compelling the representatives to favor the measure. And it is further stated that this interest in the Aldrich bill will insist upon knowing the attitude of members of congress before the election. As the money trust never works openly, it is safe to assume that this attitude will be ascertained privately and that big business is now at work laying its plans to outwit the people in the matter of financial legislation. Every democratic candidate ought to be compelled to put himself on record against the Aldrich scheme or any other central bank plan.

### A DESERTED VESSEL

Senator Hitchcock's paper, the Omaha World-Herald, had a cartoon just before the Nebraska primary, which represented Mr. Bryan as an iceberg and the Titanic ship "primary law" about to be wrecked. Now that the primary went against his candidate he might have another cartoon with the ship's name changed to Harmon and with Senator Hitchcock escaping in a life boat with an Ismay-like expression on his face. Why did he not go down with his ship?

### WORTH CONSIDERING

Some one has suggested that passengers and crew should be assigned to life boats at the beginning of the voyage so there would be neither conflict or confusion in taking and manning boats in case of accident. It is a suggestion worth considering. Order at such a time is of the FIRST importance and a previous understanding of each passenger's place would secure this.

### TREASON! TREASON!!

In his speech at Boston Mr. Taft intimated that after all, Theodore Roosevelt is "not necessary to the life of the nation." It will occur to a great many people that the man who is important enough to select his successor as president of the United States is not to be sneered at—just because he is now trying to name a successor to his successor.

### AN AWFUL INDICTMENT

The New York Sun says: "The colonel (Mr. Roosevelt) is now a wilder and more irresponsible demagogue than Mr. Bryan ever was." What a horrible charge to bring against a man—and an ex-president,—at that!

Senator Jones will soon adopt the Missouri song, but won't soon quit kicking his argument (?) around—not soon.

## An Important Report

One of the most important reports ever made by a congressional committee is the statement recently issued by the Stanley steel trust investigating committee. The committee finds that twenty-three directors of the steel trust control investments in industries and banks aggregating \$17,755,000,000. Ten billion dollars of the eighteen billion of railway capital is controlled by these steel trust directors and through this influence they dominate prices of commodities, banking business, telegraph tolls and insurance rates. The story of this report is told by the following dispatch to the Chicago American:

Washington, April 21.—With a guiding hand on a controlling percentage of the capital invested in railroads and an influential voice over banking and industrial wealth in the United States, the steel corporation, according to a statement issued by the Stanley steel investigating committee today, is the real "money trust."

Of the eighteen billions of dollars invested in railroads in the United States, the steel corporation, through its directors, controls more than ten billions.

Through this influence the steel trust, it is alleged, is able to control the prices of steel rails, steel cars, of locomotives, car wheels, of bridges and of all other steel equipment for railroads.

Reaching out to aid this giant among industrial organizations, it is charged, its directors have identified themselves with other industrial concerns with a total capitalization of \$2,803,509,348; with banks, trust companies and life insurance companies whose capital, surplus and deposits aggregate \$3,314,811,178; with express, steamship, telegraph, street railway and terminal companies capitalized at \$1,271,778,890.

The twenty-three directors of the steel corporation control a total of \$17,755,000,000 invested in railroads and industrial corporations.

Members of the Stanley committee are appalled at the magnitude of the interlocking interests uncovered by their research.

They feel that they have found a concrete money trust that is charged with destroying competition, with shaping or delaying development, with building and wrecking fortunes.

The twenty-three directors of the financial and industrial welfare in this country are: George F. Baker, E. C. Converse, William E. Corey, Henry C. Frick, E. H. Gary, C. A. Griscom, W. H. Moore, J. P. Morgan, Sr., J. P. Morgan, Jr., Samuel Mather, G. M. Lane, J. A. Farrell, George W. Perkins, Henry Phipps, Norman B. Ream, P. Roberts, Jr., Chas. C. Steele, D. G. Reid, Henry Walters, P. A. B. Widener, J. H. Reid, Alfred Clifford, Robert Winsor.

Of this remarkable group, J. Pierpont Morgan stands out in bold relief as the dominating figure.

The Standard Oil group, with John D. Rockefeller at its head, has not been investigated and individualized by the Stanley committee. But from the testimony adduced by Mr. Stanley it would appear that this group is neither so large in number, nor so great in influence, nor so diversified in its actions. Working together the two groups complete a money power represented as holding the entire United States in the hollow of its hand.

An idea of the Morgan power is gathered from the extent of interests which Morgan and his associates dominate. J. Pierpont Morgan holds voting power in \$1,690,078,667 invested in industrial corporations; \$1,923,085,550, in railroads, telegraph, express and steamship companies; \$162,275,956 in banks, insurance and trust companies.

J. P. Morgan, Jr., votes \$1,468,935,467 industrial corporations; \$741,690,706 in railroads, telegraph, express and steamship companies; \$478,291,340 in banks, insurance and trust companies.

Charles Steele, a partner of the Morgans,