The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

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Columbus, Ohio, boasts of a man who sleeps but sixteen hours out of the 168 in a week. He ought to be able to qualify as the best man available for keeping watch on the next repub-Ilcan congress.

It used to be that the chief difficulty for the courts in passing upon a divorce case was who was to get the children and who should support them, but now it is a contest over which shall get the automobile.

The doubt expressed by the allies is not because of any unbelief in the claim that it is a "made in Germany" revolution, but whether it was manufactured in the ka'serhof or at general grand headquarters.

The junk bus'ness ought to be pretty good around the capitals of Germany and Austria, where so many crowns have been tossed aside, and where the thrown room is filled considerably fuller than the throne room.

It's rather difficult for a person to change his habits after they once get fixed, but we shall try our best to live up to the increased ration of sugar that the government has graciously permitted us to have in the future.

There is now talk of arresting Hindenburg and bringing him to trial before some allied court. Is this a subtle effort on the part of his friends to enable him to keep some of those numerous Paris dinner dates of his?

Old customs are not so hard to break as it might seem on first thought. Not one of the dethroned kings in Europe seems to have been served with the customary two weeks' notice that his services were no longer desired.

It used to be that the man who received a salary had the idea that he was just a little bit larger toad in the puddle than the man who got wages, but this opinion does not seem to be held by the bankers of the present era.

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RENEWALS

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The subscriptions of those who became subscribers with the first issue of The Commoner, and have renewed at the close * @ of each year expire with the January (1919) issue. In order to facilitate the work of changing and re-entering the addresses upon our subscription books and mailing lists and obviate the expense . . of sending out personal statements an- . . nounding that renewals are due, subscribers are urgently-requested to renew with as little delay as possible. The work of correcting the stencils entails an enormous amount of labor and the publisher asks subscribers to assist as 3 much as possible by making their renewals promptly.

Payment Made Easy

Secretary McAdoo says that one billion a year will pay the interest on the national debt, even if it is increased from sixteen and one-half billions to nearly twenty-five before we return to normal conditions. One billion does not look as big as it did a few years ago before we became accustomed to war estimates, but it is still quite a sum. And, yet, it is less than one-half the amount spent annually on intoxicaling liquor in this country five years ago. Prohibition has come at an opportune time; we can use one-half of the nation's drink bill to pay the interest and with the other half retire the bonds in twentyfive years. If the bonded indebtedness does not reach twenty-five million the task will be still

In like manner Great Britain, France, Italy, and even Germany, can reduce the burden of their war debts, and at the same time increase the physical strength, the mental energy and the moral welfare of their people. Surely the time is ripe for world prohibition. W. J. BRYAN.

Wall street, says a Washington dispatch, is looking for a lively and long discussion in congress this winter over the question of continued government operation or ownership of railroads, but does not think much will come of it. Wall street is getting forgetful. It is true that the republicans won control of congress at the recent elections, but they won't take charge until the winter is over.

The baseball leagues are again poking their heads out of the greensward, and we are informed that we will again have a chance to witness real baseball games next year. We opine it will be rather tame, however, to any of the boys who have been across the pond where they had a chance to look at the biggest world's series ever pulled off.

Our offhand opinion is that those eminent gentlemen who are contending that the surest guarantee of a permanent peace lies in a scheme of preparedness for war that embraces universal military training and compulsory military service will not call Germany and France to the stand as the first witnesses in support of their case.

Massachusetts has adopted the initiative and referendum, a device for lodging in the hands of the people the right to initiate or disapprove of legislation. One who remembers with what hoots of derison the east greeted this western reform a few years ago when it made its first bow will not require any further evidence to show that the world does move.

There is really no need for any committee of the senate to go to France so that it may be available for giving advice in the making of the treaty of peace. Judging from their writings we are convinced that the only men who believe they are fully qualified for this role are the esteemed editors of the metropolitan dailies.

OUT WHERE THE WEST BEGINS

Out where the handclasp's a little stronger, Out where the smile dwells a little longer, That's were the west begins. Out where the sun shines : little brighter, Where the snows that fall are a trifle whiter, Where the bonds of home are a wee bit tighter, That's were the west begins.

Out where the skies are a trifle bluer, Where friendship ties are a little truer, That's were the west begins. Out where a fresher breeze is blowing, Where there's laughter in every streamlet flow-Where there's more of reaping and less of sowing, That's where the west begins.

Out where the world is still in the making, Where fewer hearts with despair are breaking, That's were the west begins. Where there's more of singing and less of sighing,

Where there's more of giving and less of buying,

Where a man makes friends without half trying, That's were the west begins. -By Arthur Chapman,

NATION GOES BONE DRY ON JULY 1, 1919

A Washington, D. C., dispatch, dated Nov. 20. says: The United States will be bone dry after June 30 next until the termination of demobilization of America's fighting forces is proclaimed by the President of the United States.

This tremendous victory for prohibition of the liquor traffic was accomplished late yesterday when President Wilson signed the food production stimulation bill containing the Jones nationwide prohibition rider.

The effect of the law is as follows:

After May 1, 1919, until the conclusion of the present war and thereafter until the termination of demobilization, the date of which shall be determined and proclaimed by the President of the United States, no grain, cereals, fruits, or other products shall be used in the manufacture or production of beer, wine, or other intoxicating malt or vinous liquor for beverage purposes.

After June 30, 1919, until the conclusion of the present war and thereafter until the termina. tion of demobilzation, the date of which shall be determined and proclaimed by the President of the United States, no beer, wine, or other intoxicating malt or vinous liquor shall be sold for beverage purposes except for export.

The provision further directs:

The commissioner of internal revenue is hereby authorized and directed to prescribe rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the secretary of the treasury, in regard to the manufacture and sale of distilled spirits and removal of distilled spirits held in bond as of June 30, 1919, until this act shall cease to operate, for other than beverage purposes; also in regard to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of wine for sacramental, medicinal or other than beverage uses.

After the approval of this act no distilled, malt, vinous or other intoxicating liquors shall be imported into the United States during the continuance of the present war and period of demobilization except wines, which may be imported until May 1, 1919, provided that this provision against importation shall not apply to shipments enroute to the United States at the time of the passage of this act.

Reluctant as we may be to admit the fact the result of the election in November indicates very clearly that the republicans don't know how to take a joke. We refer to the jest that America went into the war to "make the world safe for the democratic party."

Colonel Roosevelt, taking him by and large, is a man of considerable influence, and he certainly can combine words and phrases, but no newspaper seemed to have been able to have landed him a position as correspondent with the Wilson peace party.

THE LOST RETURNED



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