

**The Commoner**  
ISSUED MONTHLY

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

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Edit. Rms. and Business Office, Suite 207 Press Bldg.

One Year.....	\$1.00	Three Months.....	.25
Six Months.....	.50	Single Copy.....	.10
In Clubs of Five or more per year....	.75	Sample Copies Free.	
		Foreign Post. 25c Extra.	

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

Minneapolis boasts that King Albert of Belgium, now touring the country, was once an insurance salesman in that city. He knew in what school to learn the pertinacity that stood him in such good state.

Under the new German constitution no citizen may accept a title or decoration from any foreign government. This is about the best illustration of what it means to look far into the future that we have yet met up with.

It is not difficult to understand why so many of the United States senators are so violently opposed to the clause in the League of Nations that requires unanimous consent to act. They have a unanimous consent clause in their rules, and they haven't been unanimous once since then.

Poet D'Annunzio has set the diplomats of Europe a task in getting him out of Fiume, whither he has carried the banner of his country at the head of a large detachment of troops. Thus showing that while poets are supposed to possess fine frenzies, they also know how to induce them in others.

An estimate made by the army department is that it will require four million dollars worth of grease to keep the artillery owned by the United States from rusting. Even at that, however, it is a lot cheaper than the method in vogue a little over a year ago to prevent them from reaching that stage.

The strength of the prohibition sentiment in this country has received new emphasis. Although it was given out in Washington that the President would lift the war prohibition ban on the sale of liquors just as soon as the senate ratified the treaty, not a single defection has occurred from the ranks of the treaty's opponents.

One Lincoln woman complained the other day that for the first time in twenty years she had been compelled, for lack of a maid, to cook the family breakfast. This fearful martyrdom will doubtless cause a vast wave of pity to surge through the breasts of the workers' wives who have been doing that for twenty years.

It we are to believe the storekeepers and the packers and the manufacturers of shoes and clothing the reason why prices are high is that every consumer carries a gun and uses it to enforce his demand that he be charged not less than 100 per cent more than the articles he desires cost the dealer. There seems, however, to be some flaw in this theory because every time a municipality has opened up a store for the sale of government surplus goods crowds besiege the place and stand in line for hours.

**President Answers Questions**

A San Francisco dispatch, dated Sept. 18, says:

Replying in a statement to a list of questions put to him by a San Francisco League of Nations organization, President Wilson declared today Great Britain could not outvote the United States in the league; that foreign governments could not under the covenant order American troops abroad; that the league would have a powerful influence toward restoration of Shantung to China; that the United States would not be obligated by Article 10 to aid Great Britain in suppressing a revolt in Ireland, and that under Article 11 there would be created a new forum for questions of self-determination.

His statement containing the questions and answers follows:

1—Q.—Will you state the underlying consideration which dictated an award of six votes to the British empire in the assembly, and is it true that Great Britain will outvote us in the League of Nations and thereby control the league's action?

A.—The consideration which led to assigning six votes to self-governing portions of the British empire was that they have in effect, in all but foreign policies, become autonomous self-governing states, their policy in all but foreign affairs, being independent of the control of the British government and in many respects dissimilar from it. But it is not true that the British empire can outvote us in the League of Nations and therefore control the action of the league, because in every matter except the admission of new members in the league, no action can be taken without the concurrence of a unanimous vote of the representatives of the states which are members of the council, so that in all matters of action the affirmative vote of the United States is necessary and equivalent to the united vote of the representatives of the several parts of the British empire. The united votes of the several parts of the British empire cannot offset or overcome the vote of the United States.

2—Q.—Is it true that under the League of Nations foreign countries can order the sending of American troops to foreign countries?

A.—It is not true. The right of congress to determine such matters is in no wise impaired.

3—Q.—What effect will the League of Nations have in either forwarding or hindering the final restoration of Shantung to China? What effect will the League of Nations have in preventing further spoliation of China and the abrogation of all such special privileges now enjoyed in China by foreign countries?

A.—The League of Nations will have a very powerful effect in forwarding the final restoration of Shantung to China and no other instrumentality or action can be substituted which could bring that result about. The authority of the League will under Article 10 be constantly directed toward safeguarding the territorial integrity and political independence of China. It will, therefore, absolutely prevent the further spoliation of China, promote the restoration in China of the several privileges now long enjoyed by foreign countries, and assure China of the completion of the process by which Shantung will presently be returned to her in full sovereignty. In the past there has been no tribunal which could be resorted to for any of these purposes.

4—Q.—Is there anything in the League of Nations covenant or the peace treaty which directly or indirectly in any manner imposes on the United States any obligations, moral or otherwise, of the slightest character to support England in any way in case of revolt in Ireland?

A.—There is not. The only guarantee contained in the covenant is against external aggression, and those who framed the covenant were scrupulously careful in no way to interfere with what they regarded as the sacred rights of self-determination.

5—Q.—What effect, if any, will the League of Nations covenant have in either hindering or furthering the cause of Irish freedom?

A.—It was not possible for the peace conference to act with regard to the self-determination of any territories except those which had belonged to the defeated empires, but in the covenant of the League of Nations it has set up for the first time in Article 11 a forum before which

all claims of self-determination which are likely to disturb the peace of the world or the good understanding between nations upon which the peace of the world depends can be brought.

**OVER DEAD JOHN BARLEYCORN**

[From Worcester (Mass.) Telegram.]

Memorial services under the auspices of the Antisaloon League of America were conducted in Mechanics hall last night over the dead body of John Barleycorn. Hon. William Jennings Bryan conducted the obsequies in the presence of 2300 mourners. The silver-tongued orator came to Worcester to tell the people that the famous old inebriate was dead and would stay dead beyond all possible hope of resurrection. "America goes dry January 16, 1919, and goes dry forever," was the cold water message he threw in the faces of the wets.

Bryan came to Massachusetts to tell folks something they didn't know about the prohibition movement that has swept over America. For instance, the Nebraska orator said that during his tour of the state he made the interesting discovery that Malden had been bone dry for a period of 268 years and has the dry-town championship of the United States. Attleboro has been on the water wagon for a little matter of 225 years, while Cambridge has been the saloonless seat of Harvard University for fully 28 years.

"Rhode Island tells us that 4 per cent beer isn't intoxicating," observed Mr. Bryan in opening. "This is a very interesting discovery, indeed," he remarked dryly, "and now they are circulating petitions inviting Massachusetts legislators to make fools of themselves by legalizing 4 per cent beer. But the booze hounds will fail, because Massachusetts is a law-abiding state. Her citizens will not rebel against the union and openly espouse the cause of the boot-leggers and lawless.

"I am 59 years of age," said Mr. Bryan, "and I expect to live to see the day when the whole world is dry. Within a very few years there will not be an open saloon in any civilized country in the world."

Profiteers who have been brought to the rack in various investigations are a unit in declaring that prices are high because people want the best and won't purchase anything else. This charge that the people care so little for money that they refuse to buy anything cheap for fear it isn't good is so unanimously made that one would suspect it is the profiteers' college yell. We are still paying liberally for pictures of workers who won't be satisfied with any article unless the price is just as high as the profiteer guessed they would pay.

Apple growers testifying before a Nebraska investigator said that the consumer almost invariably pays twice as much for the apples he buys as the growers were paid for them by the dealer who bought them of the orchardists. In many instances these are first purchased by car-load lot dealers, who sell to jobbers, who dispose of them to retailers. We can't be very proud of our ingenuity as law-makers if we can't provide for a more direct relation between producer and consumer in this instance.

The popularity of the idea of universal military training for the young men of America may be judged from the fact that so very few of the boards of education in the country have met the government requirements for this work in the high schools that instead of the trained army of 1,800,000 that was to have been the result of the legislation, by 1922, less than 300,000 will be in the corps.

**THE PRICE OF SILVER**

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 29, 1919.—Editor The Commoner: I take the liberty of suggesting that you call attention to the fact that silver on Saturday last reached in New York 119 1/2 cents an ounce, and in London 63 3/4 d or approximately 126 3/4 cents. Silver at 116 3/4 is at par with gold at 16 to 1 so that the so-called 50 cent dollar is now 110 cent dollar.—Geo. W. Moore.

The fact that the Washington crowd that came to hear Secretary Baker and Mr. Bryan speak for the League of Nations packed a large church and furnished enough people for two overflow meetings would seem to indicate some interest in the District of Columbia.