

# The Commoner

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The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, noting the Cannon presidential boom, sagely observes: "Let us elect congress first." The Globe-Democrat is often forced to stop its graveyard whistle to moisten its lips.

It will be noticed that the loudest advocates of special tariff privileges are also the loudest in their denunciation of the American Federation of Labor's demand for what they declare to be "class legislation."

To the credit of Russell Sage be it said that no actresses have had the sublime nerve to put in claims against the estate. Uncle Russell may have had his faults, but they were not the faults of the Pittsburg millionaires.

Panama's sanitary regulations which were so perfect a few weeks ago are now being blamed for the failure to begin active excavation. The real reasons for switching from Nicaragua to Panama are becoming public.

President Roosevelt has a task before him. He is to speak at the unveiling of the monument to General George B. McClellan, and how to avoid mentioning McClellan's name is bothering him. He managed it once, but the strain this time will be much more severe.

Mr. Byerly, the express clerk who netted a profit of \$20,000 by investing in a 2-cent stamp and submitting a bid for a slice of the government's Panama canal bond issue, will never make a financier. He invested entirely too much in proportion to the profits realized, judging by the Wall street financial standard.

Two Boston men have been arrested for stealing umbrellas. They'll get up to the legislators, franchise grabbers and stock gamblers after while—perhaps.

The Nashville American and Washington Post are "argyfyin," whether Governor "Bob" Taylor is a fiddler or a violinist, the American contending that he is a violinist and the Post insisting that he is a fiddler. What's the odds? "Governor Bob" will make a lot of special interests dance when he goes to Washington as a senator.

## THE PREACHER'S BOY

It is not necessary to rush to the defense of the "preacher's boy," notwithstanding the prevalence of the cruel and unjust declaration that preacher's boys are usually the worst boys. This declaration is prevalent because the misdeeds of one preacher's boy will be remembered long after the misdeeds of a hundred other boys, sons of men engaged in secular pursuits, are forgotten. The trouble is that the average community de-

# Roosevelt-Carnegie Spelling

In accordance with President Roosevelt's endorsement of Andrew Carnegie's spelling reform movement, all White House correspondence will use the new orthography. It was on March 2, 1906 that Andrew Carnegie announced that he had undertaken to bear the expense of an organization to be called "the simplified spelling board." The board caused to be printed a list of three hundred "simplified spellings" June 18. In its statement the board said: "The board does not propose any 'radical' or 'revolutionary' scheme or reform, or any sudden and violent change of English spelling. Any proposal to upset suddenly and violently the accepted spelling of any literary language is foredoomed to failure. The board does not intend to advocate any modification of English spelling that is not temperate and reasonable. It is not in favor of any freakish orthography of any kind, like the misfit spelling of 'Josh Billings' and of the 'comic' paragraphers. The board's chief aim, in view of the fact that the English language bids fair to become the world language of the future, is to arouse a wider interest in English spelling and to call attention to its present chaotic condition—a condition far worse than that existing in any other modern language."

While the president's endorsement of the "spelling reformers" is being criticised by those who take his latest movement seriously, many of these critics do not object to reform in spelling. They insist that the reform should be brought about gradually and by general consent, as has been the case with many of our commonly used words, rather than by a sudden attempt on the part of one of the great departments of government.

A few of the newspapers approve of Mr. Roosevelt's new order, while some of them charge him with a disposition to make sport of a very serious question, and others poke fun at his latest efforts to "regulate the affairs of mankind."

The Chicago Record-Herald, referring to the Roosevelt-Carnegie reform says: "There are dif-

ficulties enough in the way. Spelling reform has always been opposed on principle by certain students who insist that the old spellings are full of significance as to the history of the language, and a much more effective opposition comes from the natural conservatism of the people. They cling to the usage with which they are familiar and laugh at the reformed words."

The Philadelphia Public Ledger says: "London ridicules the president's spelling. It doesn't seem any more ridiculous there than it does here."

Other newspaper comments follow:

Brooklyn Standard Union—Up to the time of going to press the English language is still safe.

Baltimore American—President Roosevelt's conversion to the spelling reform movement is not apt to cause any great alteration in the appearance of written or printed language.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: President Roosevelt has exercised his executive authority frequently in an unusual manner, but rarely so needlessly as in thus taking liberties with his mother tongue.

Cleveland Leader: The greatest possible stimulus the attempt could receive is the official co-operation of the president. Even with this help it is doubtful that more than a few of the new forms will be adopted generally and it will not be immediately, either.

Pittsburg Press: Tuff, isn't it, to have to spell like Karnegy just because he has munny.

St. Louis Republic: A great many persons who have been mis-spelling English words nearly all their lives have suddenly found out that they were reformers.

Baltimore Sun: It is presumed that Mr. Roosevelt will henceforth be "De-lited!"

Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph: Much of the spelling is done that way by persons who never heard of Brander Matthews.

Rochester Herald: Theodor Rozevelt haz cum out for speln refawrm.

Baltimore News:  
 If this is the way thru's spelt,  
 What must we do with Ruzfelt?

# The Three-Hundred Samples

The list of three hundred words approved by the "Spelling Reform Board" follows:

A—Abridgment, accouter, accurst, acknowledgment, address, adz, affixt, altho, anapest, anemia, anesthesia, anesthetic, antipyrin, antitoxin, apothem, apprize, aræor, archeology, ardor, armor, artizan, assize, ax.

B—Bans (not banns), bark (not barque), behavior, blest, blusht, brazen, brazier, bun, bur.

C—Caliber, caliper, candor, chapt, check, checker, chimera, civilize, clamor, clangor, clapt, claspt, clipt, clue, coeval, color, colter, commixt, comprest, comprize, confest, controller, couquet, criticize, cropt, crost, crusht, cue, curst, cutlas, cyclopedia, carest (not caressed), catalog, catechize, center.

D—Dactyl, dasht, decalog, defense, demagog, demeanor, deposit, deprest, develop, dieresis, dike, dipt, discust, dispatch, distil, distrest, dolor, domicil, draft, dram, drest, dript, droopt, dropt, dulness.

E—Ecumenical, edile, egis, enamor, encyclopedia, endeavor, envelop, eolian, eon, eapulet, eponym, era, esophagus, esthetic, esthetics, estivate, ether, etiology, exorcize, exprest.

F—Fagot, fantasm, fantasy, fantom, favor, favorite, fervor, fiber, fixt, flavor, fulfil, fulness.

G—Gage, gazel, gelatin, gild (not guild), gypsy, gloze, glycerin, goodby, gram, gript.

H—Harbor, harken, heapt, hematin, hiccup, hock (not hough), homeopathy, homonym, honor, humor, husht, hypotenuse.

I—Idolize, imprest, instil.

J—Jail, judgment.

K—Kist.

L—Labor, lacrimal, lapt, lasht, leapt, legalize, license, licorice, lyter, lodgment, lookt, lopt, luster.

M—Mama, maneuver, materialize, meager, medieval, meter, mist (not missed), miter, mold, molder, molding, moldy, molt, mullen.

N—Naturalize, neighbor, niter, nipt.

O—Ocher, odor, offense, omelet, oppresst, orthopedic.

P—Paleography, paleolithic, paleontology, paleozoic, paraffin, parlor, partizan, past (not passed), patronize, pedagog, pedobaptist, phenix, phenomenon, pigmy, plow, polyp, possesst, practise, prefixt, prenomen, prest, pretense, preterit, pretermit, primeval, profest, program, prolog, propt, pur.

Q—Quartet, questor, quintet.

R—Rancor, rapt (not rapped), raze, recognize, reconnoiter, rigor, rime, ript, rumor.

S—Saber, saltpeter, savior, savor, scepter, septet, sepulcher, sextet, silvan, simitar, sipt, sithe, skilful, skipt, slipt, smolder, snapt, somber, specter, splendor, stedfast, stept, stopt, strest, stript, subpena, succor, suffixt, sulfate, sulfur, sumac, supprest, surprise, synonym.

T—Tabor, tapt, teazel, tenor, theater, tho, thoro, thoro fare, thoro ly, thru, thruout, tipt, topt, tost, transgrest, trapt, tript, tumor.

V—Valor, vapor, vext, vigor, vizor.

W—Wagon, washt, whipt, whisky, wilful, winkt, wisht, wo, woful, woolen, wrapt.

mands entirely too much of the son of the preacher. They seem to forget that he is human, just like other boys, and that he is just as full of boyishness as the son of the local lawyer, the local doctor or the local grocer. A prominent clergyman has just finished a thorough research into this matter and he gives the results of his work in the statement that among those whose names have been marked as worthy of remembrance because of some good service in religion, politics, art, science, literature, commerce, philanthropy or warfare, or some other aspect of the various life of the nation, 1,270 were the children of clergymen, 510 the children of lawyers,

and 310 the children of doctors. He makes the further assertion that "the superiority which the clergy enjoy, in respect to their children, to other professions lies beyond dispute." Even allowing for the natural prejudices of a clergyman writing on this subject, a thoughtful man must admit that the old notion about "preacher's boys" is absolutely without foundation in fact. In proportion to numbers more distinguished sons have sprung from clerical homes than from any secular profession—a statement that may be verified by recourse to any biographical dictionary. It is, therefore, high time to forget the old joke about "preacher's boys."