

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The trusts are sadly in need of a "water cure."

The peace terms proposed by the Boers also stagger John Bull.

It appears that after all Mr. Babcock was only ping-ponging the tariff question.

Mr. Depew's efforts to be serious in his old age result in making him really funny.

Another Filipino general has surrendered and the "insurrection" is ended again.

Speaking of Port Chalmette, Andrew Jackson did not expend all of his strenuity in vociferation.

The Waller verdict appears to be, "Not Guilty, but no other American officers should do the same things."

There is nothing democratic about a political platform that receives no criticisms from republican organs.

The new commissioner of pensions is also a poet. "The literary fellers" are getting right to the front.

Lieutenant Potts has been promoted. He is the naval officer who earned promotion by accusing Schley of cowardice.

The eleventh annual peace conference has just adjourned and John Bull is negotiating a war loan of \$400,000,000.

"America is good enough for me," remarked J. Pierpont Morgan a few days ago. Whenever he doesn't like it he can give it back to us.

The special embassy to the coronation will defray its own expenses, but that does not alter the fact that the special embassy is wrong.

Perhaps it would be better if General Chaffee quit capturing Filipinos generals and put in his time trying to capture the Filipino private.

The promotion of Potts, U. S. N., offers a pointer to any ambitious young army officer who wants to rise. He should accuse Miles of something or other.

The Lincoln, Nebraska, Journal avows that the treatment of Filipino prisoners is "not half as bad as painted." Well, a quarter as bad would be too bad.

"Ideals" is the title of a new magazine published at Albion, Nebraska. It is conducted on elevated lines and is worthy of the most substantial recognition.

Considering the fact that the steel trust has the attorney general it is not strange that an "Ironquill" should be given a good berth under the government.

Thirty-seven years ago this month Abraham Lincoln died. During that thirty-seven years a great many principles advocated by Abraham Lincoln have been assassinated.

Eight hundred men recently met in Kansas City and slaughtered 30,000 pigeons in the name of "sport." It seems that our language is not as elastic as we thought it was.

As long as Mr. Depew can depend upon the railroad interests to keep him in the senate he proposes worrying about how southern congressmen and senators are elected.

It is arranged that the flag will be hauled down in Cuba early in May, but up to date the name of the "traitor" and "little American" selected to haul it down has not been made public.

Two years ago the republican campaign cry was "a full dinner pail." Now the republican organs, noting the rapacity of the trusts, offer the laboring men this advice: "Don't eat."

"It is difficult to create prosperity by law," sagely remarked the president in Charleston. And every tariff protected magnate that heard him smiled a knowing smile and winked the other eye.

"Supervision and regulation," remarked Mr. Roosevelt at Charleston. Of course that is calculated to make certain industries contribute cheerfully to the g. o. p. congressional campaign fund.

Several republican organs that advocate a 60 per cent tariff on clothing and 95 per cent on raw sugar predict that the British taxpayers will revolt when the ministry puts a 4 per cent tariff on breadstuffs.

Anxious reader: No. Mr. Addicks of Delaware is not a conspicuous champion of the popular election of senators. He probably still prefers to deal with the legislature notwithstanding the bad luck he has had.

Mr. Hanna's efforts to befriend Rathbone prove that Mr. Hanna is a believer in reciprocity. The investigation of the Hanna senatorial election revealed that Mr. Rathbone was a mighty handy man at the telephone.

There is something portentous in the fact that in all the college and school debates on the question of municipal ownership of public utilities the advocates of public ownership have won nine times out of ten.

We are informed that by a grand coup John W. Gates has secured control of the Louisville & Nashville railroad. From "coup" to "soup" is a short distance, as the men who pay the freight have long since discovered.

Mr. Knox asserts that if he finds such a thing as a beef trust he will get after it. It will be remembered that Mr. Knox could see nothing resembling a trust in the steel combine. The inference is that the beef trust is not worrying about Mr. Knox.

It is reported that Colonel Crowder, who was sent to investigate the report that a British camp existed at Port Chalmette, is keeping three stenographers busy writing his findings. What the people want, however, is a plain answer to the question: "Is there a British camp at Port Chalmette?" and that answer need not take more than two or three letters.

The election of Dennis Mulvihill, a furnace stoker, to be mayor of Bridgeport, Conn., and the election of Ignatius A. Sullivan, a dry goods clerk, to be mayor of Hartford, Conn., proves that laboring men can rule the country if they will but get together, quit voting in the interests of trusts and corporations and go to voting for their own interests and the interests of their wives and babies.

Senator Spooner is another republican senator who promises to give his "careful attention" to the constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by the people. Isn't it strange that the senators who are opposed to the plan always talk about "serious consideration" and "careful attention," while the friends of the measure state their position frankly? The explanation is that the opponents are hoping to avoid a vote.

In 1896 the republican organs denied that the republican party stood for the gold standard. After the election the republican organs claimed the result to be a vindication of the gold standard. In 1900 the republican organs denied that the republican party stood for imperialism. After the

election of 1900 the republican organs claimed the result to be a vindication of the policy of imperialism. Now the republican organs declare that the policy of subsidizing ships is not a republican party policy, but if the republicans are successful in the coming congressional election the organs will declare that the result is a vindication of the policy of subsidizing ships.

A Maryland democrat writes that the democrats of that state have no senators to write to in regard to the election of senators by the people. He is mistaken. There is no reason why democrats should not write to republican senators, especially upon a proposition which passed a republican house practically without opposition. While the democratic national platform has endorsed the election of senators by the people, two republican congresses have also endorsed it, and the democrats ought not to hesitate to write to their senators even though they be republicans, and republicans should not hesitate to write to their senators even though they be democrats. All senators who have not declared themselves unequivocally for the resolution, should be appealed to.

The Columbia (Pennsylvania) Independent warns the democrats of Pennsylvania that in selecting candidates for office they must not yield to the demand of the reorganizers and nominate men who have been working with the republicans. It is strange that such a warning should be necessary in any state, and yet wherever the reorganizers are pleading for harmony they are proposing to secure it by the nomination of men who have been recreant to the party in the recent past. If the men who have opposed the party really desire to help the party in the future they ought to be willing to serve in the kitchen a short time before they demand the place at the head of the table. A harmony that requires the degradation of those who have been faithful and the exaltation of those who have been unfaithful is a harmony that will not yield a return in votes. Any person with any knowledge of human nature would understand that the rank and file would be offended by the giving of undue prominence to those who have boasted of assisting the republican party.

A reader of *The Commoner* asks why the constitution should not be so amended as to call congress together at an earlier date than now. There ought to be such an amendment, and it will doubtless come in time. When the constitution was adopted travel was so slow that thirteen months were allowed to elapse between the election of the congress and the beginning of the first session. Now that the result of the election is known within a short time after the polls close, and especially since a member elected can travel across the continent within a week, there is no reason why so much time should be permitted to elapse between the day of election and the date fixed for legislation. Congress ought to convene not later than May and the second session should adjourn sine die at least a month before the next election. A great many deals and steals are now worked through congress at the second session, which convenes after the election and when a considerable portion of the membership has been retired. When the people get ready to make the amendment suggested they will probably postpone the inauguration of the president for a month or so, so as to make congress convene when the president takes his seat.

A few people have expressed themselves as opposed to any change in the methods of election of senators because they think the senate should be abolished entirely, and they argue that the more odious the senate becomes the easier it will be to abolish it. There is much more logic in their arguments than there is in the arguments of those who insist that the present method of electing senators should be retained because of its antiquity. The opponents of the popular election of senators have been quick to seize upon Senator Penrose's amendment and have paraded it as an evidence that a change in the methods of election is likely to be followed by a demand for a change in the equal representation of the states in the senate. If the senate stands in the way of popular reforms it will arouse an antagonism that is much more likely to result injuriously to the senate than the proposed change possibly can. The equality of the state in the senate is in no way connected with the methods of election and those who desire to preserve the equality of the states had better stir themselves and assist in removing from the senate the suspicion which has been brought upon it by the fraud and corruption resorted to in legislative contests.