

THE WEEKLY PRESS FORUM.

- - PRESERVE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES - -

Carrollton (O.) Chronicle: The beef trust has the republican administration by the throat and the working-man by the stomach.

Tamaqua (Pa.) Recorder: In trying to harmonize the two factions of the democratic party wouldn't it be easier for a few thousand to come over than for over six million to go over?

Fergus Falls (Minn.) Weekly: If we do not want our naturally fine sense of honor and righteousness to be vitiated, it is evident we must get out of the Philippines as soon as possible.

St. Anthony (Idaho) News: The power of the ship subsidy bill as a vote repeller is so generally recognized that the republicans are not anxious for its adoption until after the fall elections.

Lawrenceville (Ga.) News-Herald: If the combinations of capital for robbery of the public cannot be broken up and stopped by legislation, the time will come when the people will put an end to it by revolution.

Mankato (Kas.) Advocate: England professes to believe that the end of the Boer war is in sight. Judging from the progress made since the first gun was fired, John Bull ought still to be in sight of the first end of it.

Gunnison (Colo.) News-Champion: "Atrocious cruelty," is what the average American is beginning to call our policy in the Philippines. At last accounts the administration still pronounces it "benevolent assimilation."

Oneonta (Ala.) Democrat: Paying more for every necessity and getting no more for their labor is one of the sorts of "prosperity" that is helping to make the election of a democratic house this year and a president in 1904 a certainty.

Alliance (Neb.) Herald: At the present rate of trust formations, what will the result be in a few years? Why, there will be nothing under heaven that these cursed monstrosities will not control. Surely there is a limit somewhere.

Woodland (Cal.) Democrat: It is a puzzle to the average American to think why our protectionists continue to fight bitterly for existing high tariff rates, while at the same time boasting of their ability to sell American manufactures largely in foreign markets.

Omaha Western Laborer: Ordinarily sensible eastern editors are still cackling the "don't eat" cure for the increased price of meat. If those monkeys could only take a peep into the acres of cold storage rooms in the packing houses they would quit their silly talk.

Eureka (Ill.) Democrat-Journal: Senator Platt, better known as Boss Platt, made a frisky speech to a swell club in New York the other evening, in which he glorified and gloried in the trusts and monopolies beyond measure. And why shouldn't he? They furnish the money by which he rules New York and by which he got into the senate; or his own political brethren have done a deal of lying about him.

Ramsey (Ill.) News-Journal: The moment the democracy shows the white feather in repudiating the platforms upon which they went before the country in 1896 and 1900, and upon which they polled more votes than the democracy ever polled before, that soon will disintegration set in and a repetition of the reverses consequent upon Clevelandism as in 1894 will come with such power as to crush out everything denominated democracy.

Clarksburg (Mo.) Review: In order to maintain the demon of destruction in South Africa England now proposes to tax every loaf of the poor man's bread, and our war in the Philippines is but little less expensive. It costs a republic as much to play the tyrant as it does a monarchy.

Winnenucka (Nev.) Silver State: The announcement by the president that he will not retire General Miles shows that, contrary to general opinion, Roosevelt sometimes changes his mind, and that all his boasted independence does not prevent him from putting his ear to the ground occasionally.

Washta (Ia.) Journal: The Sioux City Tribune is terribly shocked over the account of a fight between a bull and a lion that recently took place in a Mexican arena, and yet another column on the same page of the Tribune contains an editorial excusing and apologizing for the crime of that inhuman wretch, Major Waller, who was four days torturing a Filipino prisoner to death.

Charlestown (Ind.) Democrat: And the democracy of any newspaper or of any man who advises the placing of the democratic hosts under the leadership of a deserter, is subject to the gravest doubt. Instead of bringing harmony into the Democratic ranks such a man or such a newspaper is a disorganizer of the most unbalanced type and knows nothing about the honest convictions which guide the great masses.

Pipestone (Minn.) Farmers' Leader: And now it is reported that proceedings have been ordered against the beef trust by Attorney General Knox. The administration would cover a multitude of its past sins in the eyes of the people if it would enforce the Sherman anti-trust law in earnest, but reports to the effect that a republican attorney general of a republican administration will prosecute a trust are generally received with incredulity.

Cottonwood Falls (Kas.) Courant and Reville: General Funston has been ordered by the president to cease talking. This is an inhuman act on the part of the president. It is as if confiscating one's stock in trade. The president should countermand the order. Funston was valuable to the space writer and amusing to the general public. Of course it was all right to make General Miles close up—he has too many battle scars and is too high in the estimation of the world as a soldier to be allowed to talk; and Admiral Dewey is too good a naval officer to have an opinion; but Funston should not be stopped. And just when he had discovered that Senator Hoar was a fool, and that every one who wished to know what was going on in the Philippines was a traitor. Don't steal the child's cracker!

Escondido (Cal.) Times: The great daily newspapers are just beginning to tell the truth about the torture of the Filipinos by American soldiers, and publish pictures of the "water cure," as if it were something just come to light; but thousands of men and women in America have long known about these cruelties that were practiced by our soldiers, and for months past the press of Europe has exploited these outrages upon civilized warfare. As long as two years ago we saw and read a letter written by a San Diego county boy, then serving in the United States army in the Philippines, describing the "water cure" in detail, but had we then published the letter it would only have been referred to as a "campaign lie" to influence votes.

The time for holding primaries for the purpose of selecting delegates to congressional and state conventions is drawing near. The congress to be elected this year will have to deal with the most momentous questions that have arisen during the history of the republic. The Fowler bill, contemplating a complete surrender to the money power; the ship subsidy bill, contemplating the enrichment of a few ship owners at the expense of the whole people; and other schemes calculated to fasten more securely upon the people the evils of special legislation—all these matters and many more are being held in abeyance by the present republican congress. If the people shall again entrust the republican party with congressional power that party will deem it a vindication of the principles involved in the Fowler bill, ship subsidy, tariff exactions, imperialism and trust domination. In 1896 the republican party denied that it stood for gold monometallism, but immediately after the election insisted that the result was a vindication of the gold standard and proceeded to make the gold standard effective. In 1900 the republican party disclaimed any intention of permanently adopting the policy of imperialism, but after the election of that year claimed a vindication of the policy of imperialism and entered upon an imperialistic career that has resulted in adding untold shame to American honor. So it will

important that the rank and file of the party understand thoroughly the issues that present themselves or will present themselves during the coming campaign. Many of the issues are sharply drawn. On the one side are democrats who stand firmly by democratic principles. On the other side are some who would make the democratic party so like the republican party that a victory for the democratic ticket would be a victory for the men who control the republican party. On the one side are the men who oppose imperialism, Fowlerism, trusts, colonialism, redemption of the silver dollar, branch banks, asset currency and gold monometallism. On the other side are those who advocate these things, aided and assisted by men who pose as democrats, but who are willing to accept their orders from the trust-magnates and banking syndicates if only they be allowed to control the democratic party and hold the public offices. Honest democrats should be aroused to the dangers that confront the party and the nation. The battle about to open is for the preservation of the republic, and the safety of the republic lies in the application of democratic principles.

The Commoner discusses issues and questions as they arise, and applies to all questions that arise true democratic principles. It refuses to be misled by expediency, insisting that a defeat for principle is better than a victory through compromise with evil. With a national circulation it is the connecting link between democrats in

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be with Fowlerism, asset currency, branch banks, redeemable silver dollars, retirement of the greenbacks, subsidy schemes and trust exactions if the republican congress is elected. Democrats who are interested in the preservation of democratic principles, and who are opposed to the republicanization of the democratic party, should be on their guard. They should particularly guard against any move to appoint delegates to congressional and state conventions. The essence of democracy lies in giving every man a voice in the management of the party: Democratic principles and democratic traditions are only to be preserved by rigid adherence to democratic methods. To that end democrats should demand the right to a voice in the selection of delegates to congressional and state conventions where party platforms are to be promulgated and democratic candidates nominated. Democrats who believe in democratic principles should go to the primaries. Delegates should be selected who stand firmly for democratic principles and refuse to be led astray by the promise of spoils. There can be no victory for democracy if democratic principles are betrayed or ignored in the work of securing that victory. Democrats should arouse themselves to the dangers threatening the principles of democracy—dangers within as well as without the party. It is

all sections of the country, and is enabled to keep them in close touch with one another. It seeks to arouse democrats to a sense of their duty, as well as to point republicans to the mistakes of their party. Because of these facts it is the best campaign literature that can be placed in the hands of voters—best for democrats because it arouses their enthusiasm, and best for republicans because it points the error of their ways. The Commoner should be a visitor in the family of every democrat who is desirous of preserving democratic principles. It is with the desire that it be thus widely circulated that the plan of selling subscription cards in lots of five has been inaugurated. This plan places The Commoner within the reach of all. It enables democrats to send The Commoner to their friends at a small cost, or provides working democrats with an easy and profitable occupation. These subscription cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, are sold in lots of five at \$3 per lot. This is at the rate of 60 cents each. The purchaser of a lot of five may sell the cards at 60 cents each and thus extend the influence and circulation of The Commoner; or he may sell them at the regular price of \$1 each and be well remunerated for his services, or he may send The Commoner to five friends for \$3. Every democrat should take hold and help to make this plan a success.