

# The Commoner.

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"On to St. Louis!"

The "graft" should be sure of his technicality before going ahead.

Mr. Hanna's declination seems to be several laps behind his press agent.

The graft hunting public official will hereafter be sure to pack a few technicalities in his grip.

President Roosevelt is to be excused if he thinks the Hanna declination is suffering from a "vexatious indisposition."

It appears that Senator Dietrich got on the blind side of Justice a few months before Congressman Driggs started.

Mr. Morgan's personal property assessment has been reduced \$200,000, and Mr. Rockefeller knows who is responsible for it.

Perhaps those Russian dogs of war have heard about that Russian purchase of American canned beef and are afraid to break loose.

Mr. Driggs seems to have overlooked the possibilities that were hidden in a successful effort to get behind the statute of limitations.

Mr. Hanna's resolution not to be a candidate seems to belong to the same class as a lot of New Year resolutions we have heard about.

About all the moral that the grafters will get out of the Dietrich and Driggs' cases will be this: Try to get a seat in the senate—it's safer.

The military etiquette that prevented a word of commendation for General Miles when he retired was on a vacation when General Young retired.

Mr. Hay informs the Colombian minister that Panama is a closed incident. But it may have a little crack in it, just like the Dietrich "vindication."

The Sioux City Journal declares that "Senator Allison maintains an open mind." Does the Journal mean that it is well ventilated or only porous?

How true it is that sin brings its own punishment. Schwab admits tearfully that most of the money he made in the shipbuilding trust he invested in steel common.

Now that the country has found out how old Ann really is, it might try to figure out how old she will be when the president sends a trust magnate to the penitentiary.

General Adna R. Chaffee won his way from a private in the ranks to the position of lieutenant general, and there is no talk of investigating him. But General Chaffee was fortunate in getting so high up before personal favoritism came into style that he could not be "jumped" by the favorites.

Owing to circumstances over which they seem to have no control the citizens of Sheffield, Mass., are just now unable to devote all of their time to solving the "southern race problem."

The personality of their candidate is a matter of secondary importance to the g. o. p. bosses. The man who can offer the best evidences of being easily financed is the man the bosses are looking for.

The president says the Panama matter is "an accomplished fact." So is the "grafting" in the postal and public land departments, but that is no reason why the guilty parties should not be punished.

Japan will not feed her soldiers on American canned beef. This is an indication that Japan's military leaders are quite well informed concerning some interesting developments of the late Yanko-Spanko war.

The postal deficit continues to grow, and probably will keep on growing until an administration takes hold that will back up denunciation of graft with the deeds that will result in sending the grafters to the penitentiary.

The finding in the Dietrich case seems to be to the effect that all a senator-elect can get between the time of his election and the time of taking the oath is his for keeps.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "General Wood earned his stars." And so did 500 other and more experienced soldiers, and many of them before Wood was out of knickerbockers, but they'll be a long time getting them.

The citizens of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma should "rise as one man" and send a special commissioner to Washington with an application for statehood in one trunk and an opportunity to squander a few of the nation's millions in another.

Before the interstate commerce commission wastes any more time trying to ascertain why the railroads have advanced rates, some good friend should inform that august body that the railroads did it because they could see nothing to prevent it.

One who opposes Judge Parker's nomination because of the uncertainty as to the judge's position on public questions suggests that in case of his nomination the second verse of the third chapter of First John would be about as definite a declaration as the judge's record would permit.

Captain Mills has taken the long distance jumping championship from General Wood. Captain Mills has just jumped over 276 captains, 354 majors, 122 lieutenant colonels, and 105 colonels. Like Wood, Captain Mills had the advantage of a running leap from a presidential favor spring-board.

When Wall street backed McKinley the g. o. p. editors told us that we should listen to the advice of Wall street. Now those same editors are telling us that the alleged opposition of Wall street to Roosevelt is the chief reason why Roosevelt should be elected. The average republican editor usually becomes so twisted in his argument that he collides with himself before he gets to the first turn.

Attorney General Knox, in reply to an inquiry, reports that in the last year he has expended about \$25,000 of the \$500,000 voted him to assist in prosecuting the trusts. At the rate he is working the appropriation will run his department for twenty years. Even a republican congress expected about twenty times as much activity as he has displayed. Twenty expected to one realized—that is more than sixteen to one.

The Philadelphia Telegram prints a dispatch from Newcastle to the effect that Andrew Carnegie has set aside \$4,000,000 as a fund, the interest on which is to be used as a pension fund for employes who meet injury in any of the Carnegie steel plants. Among other pension items is one of "10 cents a day to any child under 16 years of age injured, or \$100 to the family of any child meeting death while at work." But where is the philanthropy in allowing children under 16 years of age work in a steel mill? Why not pay the elders enough wages to obviate the necessity of hiring children under 16?

"The recognition of Panama as an independent republic is already an accomplished fact," said President Roosevelt with the air of one who would put "finis" to the incident. Robbery of the government by postal and land thieves is also an accomplished fact, but that is no reason why the robbers should be left in undisturbed enjoyment of their loot.

Senator Aldrich, whose daughter married Rockefeller's son, sent Rockefeller a 30-cent telegram and had it charged to the government. If Mr. Rockefeller had been compelled to pay the toll he might have advanced oil another half-cent a gallon to get even, and Senator Aldrich should be thanked, not blamed, for his economic thoughtfulness.

Republican leaders are declaring that the same financial interests whose desires proved the wisdom of electing McKinley, prove the wisdom of electing Roosevelt by their opposition to him. Republican logic continues to wriggle around with a crimp in its spine.

In the court that dismissed Senator Dietrich on a technicality a young man who broke into a postoffice and stole 30 pennies and \$9 worth of stamps was sentenced to three years in the federal penitentiary, while a employe in the Omaha postoffice who stole \$2,029 was let off with a fine of \$2,000—or \$29 less than the amount of his stealings. And yet there are those who complain because there is an apparent growth of popular distrust of the courts.

The other day a report was filed in Washington. It recalled a scandal of thirty years ago—the Freedman's Savings and Trust bank.

### A Ghost of Other Days.

The bank failed thirty years ago, and its affairs were taken in hand by the government for the purpose of winding them up. The end is not yet, and the expenses today exceed the disbursements to old-time depositors. But the commission provides fat salaries for a lot of politicians, and that is the only excuse that can be offered for the long drawn out affair.

The next national convention of the republican party will be its thirteenth—an "unlucky number."

### Factors in the Equation.

Mr. Roosevelt is a president who succeeded his chief, and as yet no vice president who became president by the death of his chief has ever been elected president. And another factor in the equation is the fact that the republican party has never succeeded in electing an eastern man to the presidency, and Mr. Roosevelt is an eastern man. While persisting in disclaiming that he is a candidate, Mr. M. A. Hanna imagines that he can overcome the "13" hoodoo.

If any added proof were needed that President Roosevelt and Secretary Root went out of their way to administer a snub to

### Miles Grows by the Sharp Contrast.

General Miles, it may be found in the fulsome compliments paid to General Young in the order retiring him when he reached the age limit, General Miles was dismissed with a cold and blunt order, and administration apologists claimed that it was not permissible to do otherwise. But when General Young retired it was with extreme difficulty that the secretary of war found words enough to express his compliments. By calling attention to their own littleness the detractors of General Miles only emphasize his greatness.

Between manufacturing alibis, statutes of limitations and technicalities, Justice is having a hard time. The statute of limitations has operated to relieve

### Justice Has Troubles of Her Own.

several prominent republican politicians from the disagreeable task of facing an investigation, and one republican senator who declared loudly that he would demand a full and fair trial sneaked behind a technicality and escaped. Ex-Congressman Driggs is entitled to considerable credit. He stood trial, admitted the facts, paid his fine and served his twenty-four hours in jail, and scorned to plead a technicality and made no effort to stave off investigation until the statute of limitations operated.