

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second class mail matter.

One Year \$1.00
 Six Months 50c
 In Clubs of 5 or more, per year 75c

Three Months 25c
 Single Copy 5c
 Sample Copies Free.
 Foreign Postage 52c Extra.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

That European war cloud is now slightly larger than even the mailed fist.

General Liefastovich and Admiral Fableisthuma seem to be working overtime in the Orient.

Perry Heath has resigned, but it is believed that he did so in order to keep from being shoved.

Mr. Shafroth is a native Missourian, but it is feared that a lot of republican officials will not profit from his showing.

The difference between Shafroth's resignation and Heath's resignation is that Shafroth resigned because he was honest.

Mr. Cleveland says the geographical location of the candidate does not matter at all. And New Jersey is still in the Union.

The "vitch is vitch" joke is as much of a chestnut as the old one about President Roosevelt being determined to bust the trusts.

Korea is "the land of the morning calm," but Korea will feel differently after a night out with the bold soldiers of Russia and Japan.

By owning her own trans-Siberian railroad Russia manages to keep from paying excessive fare for the transportation of her soldiers.

The New York broker who caught a thief and then let him go, probably held him long enough to learn any new pointers the thief might have.

Between the boll weevil in the cotton growing sections and the graft microbe in the official sections, the country is being held up at a lively rate.

The Chicago Chronicle has sounded the "knell of unionism," but the wage-workers wink their optics every time they hear the Chronicle's false alarm.

A Massachusetts judge has decided that a labor union cannot pay strike benefits. And still people complain that there is a growing contempt for the judiciary.

The corporation senators will probably explain their conduct by saying that they are not acting in an official capacity when they vote with the corporations.

The democratic party has for eight years been opposing "government by injunction." It may soon find it necessary to begin a crusade against "senatorship by demurrer."

The Washington Post says: "Mr. Bryan says democratic victory is in the air. That is where he left it." But does the Post still prefer a victory dragged through the mire?

Eight American soldiers were poloed in the Philippines the other day by pacified Filipinos. This would seem to call for another speech from ex-Governor Taft.

This is the season of year when the humblest constituent is swelled with pride at the fact that he has been remembered to the extent of "five varieties of seed" by his congressman.

Mr. James Eckles is giving the democratic party some advice, and doing it all the more freely because that is all he ever did give democracy, unless it was the benefit of his prolonged absence.

A number of newspapers that are denouncing the wood pulp trust and demanding free wood pulp, are still trying to convince the farmers on the prairies that a tariff on lumber is a good thing.

The canal treaty has been ratified and the grafters will now "arise as one man" and reach for the money. There is ground for the belief that under existing conditions Uncle Sam is the original E. Z. Mark.

When Washington's farewell address was read in the senate recently it must have sounded wonderfully like treason to a number of gentlemen who sit on the republican side and throw things at the constitution.

It is clear enough now—clear enough why the New York World praises Mr. Cleveland and throws stones at Mr. Bryan. The World explains it in an editorial in which it says that Mr. Cleveland started out on a "projected secret sale of bonds to a Wall street syndicate at an inadequate price," but that he corrected the mistake when the World organized a group of seven thousand bankers and offered a higher price. It complains that Mr. Bryan, on the contrary, refused to listen to the World or to the group of bankers or money magnates for which the World speaks. Of course, the World prefers some one who will obey it.

The New York Sun should have an agricultural reporter for the collection of news from the farmers who visit the metropolis. Mr. Bryan passed through the city recently and in the course of a conversation with a number of newspaper men said that the failure of the "reorganizer" newspapers to agree upon a platform would save him the \$100 reward offered, and added that the sum saved was about equal to the value of five good Poland-China pigs. The Sun reporter, doubtless a city bred young man, wrote "hogs" for "pigs," apparently not knowing the difference between a pig and a hog. It is a shame that country people visiting the city should be subjected to such misrepresentation, even when the misrepresentation is unintentional.

The ratification of the Panama treaty has been accomplished, and the country is committed to the Panama route. For fifty years the people have been demanding the construction of a canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and many honest and possible opportunities were offered. It is to be regretted that after all of these delays the country is committed to a canal proposition that is smirched by utter disregard of the rights of a sister republic, with corruption and with chicane. The people have been insisting on a canal, but they have never insisted that one be builded by means that are in utter contrast with American ideas of international honor. It remains now to be seen whether the canal will be constructed with no further evidences of dishonesty, of disregard for justice and of corruption.

The Canal Treaty Ratified.

The push and pluck of the American business man was never better illustrated than in the case of the Baltimore News. The News office was completely destroyed in the recent fire, but the News never missed an issue. For a few days it was issued from Washington, and in the meantime Manager Grasty was hustling. He went to New York and contracted for the immediate delivery of a few carloads of material, and then called upon the owner of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, who was also owner of the plant of the absorbed Philadelphia Times. Within ten minutes the Times plant was purchased, and within two hours the work of preparing it for shipment to Baltimore was begun. Inside of two weeks after the fire the News was being issued from its own office on its own presses. This beats all records in similar lines of endeavor, and the News is entitled to congratulations upon its enterprise.

Some Newspaper Hustle.

If there are any members of labor unions who believe that "government by injunction" is no longer an issue, their attention should be called to an injunction recently issued by a judge of the Massachusetts superior court. Boston printers and pressmen are on strike for shorter hours and increased wages in certain offices and shops, and the printers and pressmen who remain at work are cheerfully paying assessments in order to pay strike benefits to their striking companions. The judge in question has issued an injunction restraining the working craftsmen from paying strike benefits. This is, in many respects, equal to the order issued by the federal judge in Pennsylvania restraining a minister from praying for striking miners. Organized labor's attention is called to this Boston injunction for the purpose of emphasizing the fact that government by injunction is by no means a dead issue.

If reports are true Mayor Robb of Lima, O., is an unique dispenser of justice. A man accused of abusing his family was arraigned before Mayor Robb recently, and the man's wife and four small children appeared in court as witnesses. The proof was complete, but Mayor Robb hesitated to punish the man. The prisoner had no money, and the only punishment possible was a jail sentence. But if the man was sent to jail his family would have no support whatever, and would therefore suffer more than the prisoner. Mayor Robb finally said: "I'll fine the prisoner the price of a good dinner for his wife and four children, and loan the price of the meals." He then compelled the prisoner to go with him, but would not allow him to eat, but the wife and little ones were given a hearty meal at the mayor's expense. The man was so thoroughly ashamed that he hustled around and had a job at good wages inside of an hour, and declared that he had learned his lesson.

Mr. Shafroth's refusal to hold a congressional seat tainted with fraud serves to recall another contest case recently decided in congress. The Shafroth case reminds us of the other one because it was so different. Mr. Howell was elected to congress on an independent ticket in a Pennsylvania district, defeating Mr. Connell, the machine republican candidate. Connell began contest proceedings and was seated by a vote that was almost partisan—one republican from Pennsylvania and two republicans from New York having the honesty to vote to retain Howell. The Philadelphia North American thus speaks of the case: "Howell's election was not only a fact, but it was a distinct triumph for independence against machine trickery. Connell, a republican, was able to prevent Howell's receiving the straight democratic nomination, yet was fairly beaten at the polls. And though his methods are well known, and though Howell is a poor man, he goes before congress and accuses the successful candidate of corruption. The testimony did not in the least justify a change in the result. But 'party loyalty' triumphed over decency, and the will of the voters was defeated by a dishonest judgment in the house of representatives."

Joel Chandler Harris, than whom the south has produced no keener observer or more forceful writer, has contributed to the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post three interesting articles on the "negro problem." Those who talk about the "negro problem" for the sole purpose of making political capital out of the question would do well to read, digest and act upon Mr. Harris review of the subject. He clearly shows that the so-called "negro problem" is merely the problem which "all individuals and all races have had to contend with at one time or another, and there is no solution save hard work and right living." Mr. Harris points out—and proves—that the negro's situation in the south is nothing like so bad as in the north, for while southern negroes are earning a living by pursuing various trades and callings in which the whites are also engaged, northern negroes are not allowed to compete with the whites in any but the most menial and unprofitable callings. Mr. Harris sums up the question briefly when he declares: "The trouble heretofore with educated negroes is that they have insisted on swarming into politics or into the pulpit. Up to date they have made the poorest kind of politicians and, with a few notable exceptions, very inferior preachers."

The Race Problem is Not New.