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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The attention of Senators Foraker and Dick is called to the fact that The Hague tribunal is just now at leisure.

A lot of republican congressmen will never forgive Mr. Baker for being honest when he says he is opposed to graft and passes.

D. Barnhart of Monument, Colo., desires to secure a copy of McGuffey's Fifth Reader. Any one having a copy to sell should address him.

Congressman Baker's continued remonstrances against "graft" are beginning to strike a number of members on the majority side as altogether too personal.

Judge Parker's friends say that they will not have to apologize for him. Perhaps not, but are they prepared to work their explanation departments overtime?

In view of the many exposures of official corruption at Washington there is nothing in the law of supply and demand if the price of whitewash does not take an upward turn.

The man who expects justice to the people to emanate from the men chosen by managers of selfish interests, would expect to gather grapes from thorns and figs from thistles.

A number of senators who owe their election and allegiance to corporations are awfully shocked at the discovery that Senator Smoot owes his election and allegiance to the Mormon church.

A number of republican daily newspapers that complimented Knox upon his assertion that the administration would not run amuck, are now wondering if the print paper trust also heard him say it.

"Corruption is eating the heart out of Korea," says a writer who has investigated. If that kind of eating ever made dyspeptics, what a magnificent army of invalids this country could muster.

Eugene O. Mayfield, known throughout the west to all newspaper readers as "Rex M.," will soon begin the publication of a juvenile magazine in Omaha. Mr. Mayfield has endeared himself to thousands of children by his inimitable animal stories and other juvenile tales, and will doubtless merit their loyal and hearty support in his magazine venture.

The average life of a battleship is fifteen years, which is considered about thirteen years and eleven months too long by the eminent financiers who engage in the manufacture of armor plate as a side line when not securing some tariff legislation from a republican congress.

The return to sanity necessarily implies that the person returning has been insane. Possibly Mr. Cleveland is trying to be charitable and thinks it more generous to say that the democratic party was mentally deranged when it repudiated his administration than to say that the party knew what it was doing.

Congressman Baker continues to incur the enmity of republicans by constantly twitting them about facts. The average republican congressman dislikes very much to be hampered by anything like facts.

Mr. Foraker's anxiety to emasculate the anti-trust law may be taken as an indication that Mr. Foraker desires to pry Senator Aldrich loose from his position as chief of the trust representatives in congress.

Talking about purity in politics and asking Matt Quay to manage the campaign is not much different from posing as a civil service reformer and then appointing Payne to the position of postmaster general.

Some of the papers that are anxious to make a record for forecasting Judge Parker's views, are supposing all sorts of different and antagonizing opinions, feeling sure that one of their guesses will be correct.

Senator Burton seems to have made the mistake of selling his official influence to Lawyer Burton. This appears to be much more dangerous than selling postoffice appointments or renting buildings to the government.

Mr. Schwab went into court in New York the other day and swore off \$100,000 of taxable property, claiming residence in Pennsylvania. This is an indication that Mr. Schwab has not yet floated his bundle of shipbuilding trust stock.

The president's letter to the Panama canal commissioners sounds wonderfully like a campaign document, but it would take better if its sentiments were not confronted with appointments like that of Payne in the postal service.

Walter Wellman says that the American publishers are in search of a great novel. If this be true, the republican campaign book this year ought to satisfy them, for if it attempts to give any reasons why the republican party should succeed, it will be a great book of fiction.

Some of the eminent bolting democrats who sneeringly alluded to Mr. Bryan's lack of wealth in 1896 are pointing with pride to the statement that Judge Parker is a poor man, and offering it as proof that he is honest. A bolting democrat's logic is crooked enough to lend crimps to that of a republican.

According to the Brooklyn Eagle, "Mr. Bryan's fate hangs in the balance in Nebraska." "Important Nebraska democrats," it says, "have reported that he is already beaten, the democracy of his state refusing to stand for the reaffirmation of the accuracy of the Eagle's information on other subjects, its readers would better not rely too much upon its columns. So far no county in Nebraska has repudiated the Kansas City platform, and when the state convention is held it will be found that Nebraska is in line. Nebraska some years ago abandoned platforms of the New York variety."

Secretary Taft traveled from Washington to Chicago recently to tell why the Filipinos should not be granted self-government. Every reason he advanced was advanced in the case of the Cubans, and yet the Cubans seem to be doing fully as well as our forbears did when they first tackled the job. It is interesting to note, too, that Secretary Taft's reasons for not granting independence to the Filipinos are curiously like those advanced by George III. and Lord North when the matter of colonial independence was under consideration. With very slight paraphrasing, King George's reasons for not granting independence to the American colonies could be used as the administration's reasons for governing the Filipinos without their consent.

The Nebraska Independent (Lincoln) recalls a phase of the New York customs house case that *The Commoner* omitted to mention last week. When the Standard Oil bank bought the old customs house it not only did not pay cash to the government for the property, but its certificate of deposit was made out for \$50,000 less than the agreed purchase price. As the property was not entirely paid for the title thereto was not changed, but still rests with the government. Government property is

If Not Fraud Then What is it?
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not taxable, therefore, although the bank gets an enormous rental from the government for the use of the building, and has the free use of the money that the government ostensibly received for the property, the bank escapes paying city and state taxes on the property, amounting to close upon \$100,000 a year. And yet republican congressmen object when democrats stand up in congress and apply the term "fraud" to this transaction.

Every now and then the St. Louis Globe-Democrat inadvertently gives utterance to a great truth. Recently the Globe-Democrat remarked editorially that "reform in Missouri can be condensed into one word—'republicanism'." Citizens of Missouri who lived through the republican administration that afflicted that state immediately after the close of the war will cheerfully admit that any reform undertaken by republicanism will be wonderfully condensed. In fact, it would be condensed to an infinitesimal degree.

The Milwaukee News continues to trench upon lese majeste with a courage that is little short of sublime, though terribly reckless. The News declares that it really doesn't make any difference when congress adjourns as long as Roosevelt is in the White house, because "if there are any laws that need to be enacted, he may issue an 'executive order' to meet the emergency." Turn it which ever way you will, this is clearly a case of treason. Either it is treason to the republican congress, or it is treason to the strenuous executive who occasionally pauses in the work of performing his constitutional duties to perform the duties imposed upon congress and the courts.

The present war between Russia and Japan is known as the Russo-Japanese war, and a writer in the Philadelphia Press points out an interesting fact connected with wars in which the names of the contending nations were hyphenated to distinguish them. This writer shows that invariably the name of the country before the hyphen has come out loser. The Austro-Prussian war was lost by Austria. The Franco-Prussian war was lost by France. The Chino-Japanese war was lost by China, and the Spanish-American war was lost by Spain. Those who believe in signs and omens will see in the designation of "Russo-Japanese war" defeat for Russia. Others, however, will probably wait to see what facts develop.

Referring to the news that the Mississippi river has shortened its course twenty miles by cutting off a bend, the New York World says that "this brings the north and south nearer together." This is a cheerful view to take of the matter, and it recalls Mark Twain's wonderful statistics of the Mississippi. Mark figured out, taking the average annual shortening of the river for ten years that about 2,000 B. C. the Mississippi river was 11,000 miles long and stuck out over the Gulf of Mexico like a fishing-rod. He figured further that about the year 3,000 A. D. the Mississippi would have been so shortened that Memphis and Minneapolis would be like one city, and the Gulf of Mexico merely a huge reservoir for St. Louis.

The evil of modern commercialism is well illustrated in what Governor Murphy of New Jersey says his state should do to attract more business from the predatory trusts. Governor Murphy says: "Other states are bidding sharply with New Jersey for corporation business, and if New Jersey is to retain its business in this respect it must meet the reasonable demands of those who desire to incorporate under its laws." This statement comes in the face of the fact that the New Jersey legislature has relieved the directors of corporations from criminal prosecution on account of paying unearned dividends. This permits them to deceive would-be investors by declaring dividends and paying them out of the proceeds of stock sales instead of earnings, thus inducing investments. This is not a bit better than selling gold bricks or green goods. And yet Governor Murphy thinks that New Jersey is not lenient enough with the corporations. Would he issue them state licenses permitting them to rob banks, burglarize houses and forge checks?

'Twould be Condensed Indeed.

Treading on Dangerous Ground.

Is There Any Significance in Names?

Wonders of Statistics.

Selling Their State's Honor For Gold.