

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

When Perry Heath heard of the Byrne appointment he started east without loss of time.

In the meantime the Igorottes worried not a bit over the butchers' and garment workers' strikes.

Delegate Sam Wright of Iowa seems to be the kind of man who is willing to accept notoriety in lieu of fame.

The "blood and iron" idea does not appeal to thoughtful men who are striving to bring about an era of universal peace.

Secretary Morton declares that we should have the largest navy in the world. Perhaps he will now undertake to water it.

Up to date we have not noticed any old-time republican organs rejoicing over the addition of the Chicago Chronicle to their ranks.

With American steel rails selling at \$32 at home and \$24 abroad the g. o. p. campaign fund will not be in any danger of going dry.

Wages at Fall River have fallen. And this, too, in the face of "universal prosperity" brought about by "wise republican management."

The president is very much pained, he says, at the growing evidences of disregard for morality in public places. Lou Payned, we presume.

Once rid of the fungus growth of imperialism the country will quickly grow strong enough to throw off the poison of trustism and financial greed.

The nominee of the negro "liberty party" is more than ever in favor of liberty since he was sent to jail for twenty days for keeping a disorderly house.

Mr. Root says the tariff, if revised at all, must be "revised by its friends." And that is all that the tariff fed trusts ever asked for—that their friends be allowed to revise the tariff.

If the readers of *The Commoner* will compare the platform adopted by the democratic national convention with the New York platform he will not find many points of similarity.

Since the Chicago Chronicle deserted democracy and turned republican the average of the democratic press has been greatly raised, while the average of the republican press has been materially lowered.

A reader asks whether an effort was made to put a direct legislation plank in the platform. Yes; Mr. Bryan prepared such a plank, but before he reached the point where he intended to introduce it Senator Pettigrew introduced a similar plank which was supported by a number of members of the committee, among them Mr. Pettigrew and Mr. Bryan, but it was defeated.

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Russia has been having a hard enough time with the Japanese without courting greater trouble by seizing American newspaper dispatch boats.

Judge Parker was taking a swim when he received the news of his nomination. Let this fact forever set at rest that aged jest that democracy is "unwashed."

W. T. Cobb, republican candidate for governor of Maine, says he will, if elected, increase the number of colonels on the gubernatorial staff. This is an amazing statement.

The democrats who bolted in 1896 and 1900 are daily growing louder in their demands that no democrat bolt this good year of 1904. Bolting is a medicine that some men love to mix, but want somebody else to take.

The Sioux City Journal says: "It has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Mr. Hearst that a presidential nomination cannot be bought with cash." But will the Journal undertake to say that a presidential election has never been bought with cash?

When Miss Stone was a captive in the hands of the brigands the administration did not send any "Miss Stone alive or bandit dead" cablegrams, but that may be due to the fact that a national campaign was not in progress and the manufacture of campaign thunder not a necessity.

Secretary Wilson tells us that the meek and lowly bean is equal to meat, and that it can be used as a weapon in bringing the meat trust to time. It will be admitted by all thoughtful men, even though they know nothing of the bean, that it will be just as efficacious as anything the administration has done.

Having figured it out just in time that he might need Colorado's electoral vote, President Roosevelt made haste to send word that he would be glad to meet the delegation of Pennsylvania miners who wanted to call his attention to the barbarities practiced upon their Colorado brethren.

A reader of *The Commoner* suggests that the Chicago Chronicle may have gone over to Roosevelt with the idea that by so doing it could help Parker. That explanation is hardly reasonable, however, for while it may help Parker by advocating Roosevelt it would be absurd to credit Mr. Walsh with that much political sagacity.

Republicans in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio and Minnesota, where political corruption has prevailed for years, have had a great deal of fun about "mossback democrats" in Missouri. But the Missouri "mossback" have just given the republicans of the aforementioned states a splendid object lesson in political purification, and they should heed it without delay.

A whole lot of republican papers that hardly dared mention the Boers during their splendid struggle for freedom—fearful that it would cause political complications—have been saying beautiful things of them and of Kruger since the latter died. The man or newspaper that dares not speak for justice and right, fearing that if he does so he will injure his party's chances, is lacking something in American make-up.

Mr. L. S. Byers of Seeleyville, Ind., offers \$500 reward for the return of his five-year-old son, or for information which will lead to his recovery. He mysteriously disappeared from his home on Sunday afternoon, May 29. He is five years old, rather small for his age, has light hair, fair complexion, gray or hazel eyes, the left being crossed. The child is very talkative for his age, and would rather be in the company of men than with children.

More than 100,000 people registered for a chance to secure a quarter section of land in the Rosebud reservation of South Dakota. While many of those who registered really want land upon which to live and make a livelihood, the majority registered because the element of chance appealed to them. The Rosebud land drawing is nothing more nor less than a gigantic lottery conducted by the government, with chances of drawing a prize fewer

than in the old Louisiana lottery of evil fame. Thousands were drawn to the four registration points by the appeal to the gambling spirit. If the government has any more land to dispose of it is to be hoped that some other method of disposition will be evolved. The nation can not afford to sanction virtual gambling games like the Rosebud drawing.

It is significant that although republicans, as well as democrats and populists, have expressed themselves in favor of the election of United States senators by popular vote to the extent that among the rank and file of all political parties there seems to be no division on this question, the republican national convention failed to incorporate in its platform a popular election plank.

Through the platform of 1904 the democratic party and its representatives are solemnly pledged to do all in their power to bring about this important reform in the election of senators.

It is strange that with public sentiment so overwhelmingly in favor of this reform, republican senators have been able to delay the good work. Perhaps it is not so strange that the republican national convention, controlled as it was by a handful of men, failed to give expression to what is on this point undoubtedly the sentiments of the rank and file of the republican party. The Nebraska legislature of 1903 was overwhelmingly republican, and yet, the sentiment among republicans, as well as among men of all other political parties, was so strongly in favor of the election of senators by the people that the Nebraska legislature adopted a resolution in favor of the proposed reform. The Michigan legislature, also republican, adopted similar resolutions in 1901. Resolutions favorable to the election of senators by popular vote were adopted by republican legislatures as follows: Pennsylvania, Kansas, Utah, California, Oregon, Minnesota, Idaho and South Dakota.

The Chicago Record-Herald in an editorial here reproduced, calls attention to the comments made by Governor Luz, formerly

The Dark Side.

chief executive of Batangas Province in the Philippines. He was shown the beautiful residences and business blocks in the city of Chicago and having seen the things that are usually brought to the attention of visitors, he asked to be shown how the poor lived. This suggestion coming from the isles of the orient ought to make an impression upon the men who talk so much about prosperity and who know so little about the wretchedness that accompanies it. The nation's prosperity is not to be measured by the luxury and enjoyment of those who through monopolies seize upon the resources of the country and exploit the people. The masses and the moral sense of the country must be measured by the manner in which the fortunate interest themselves in the welfare of the less fortunate. Whether Governor Luz profits by his visit to the United States or not, the United States ought to profit by the pointed inquiry which he submits. The Record-Herald says: "Senor Simeon Luz, former governor of Batangas province, island of Luzon, did well to ask that he and his fellow visitors from the Philippines be shown how the poor live in Chicago as well as how the rich are housed. Bad laws and an impoverished people, as history shows, breed luxury and magnificence in spots. It is not the palaces and the broad avenues that tell the story of a nation. The true test is how the masses fare. The poor have their pleasures. The thrifty poor have their comforts also. But the well-governed community should have no neighborhoods of abject wretchedness. The unsanitary rookery should be regarded as an inexcusable blemish. The foul street or alley should be cleansed, so that the little children that have no other place to stretch their tender limbs may not be stricken with fever at their play. The great and rich community which cannot manage this has no right to show it marvels to strangers and make a parade of its achievements, for these often spell selfishness rather than brotherhood. When Chicago or any other city is placed on view by an entertainment committee no exhibition of its rows of costly residences and tall business structures can tell the whole truth to the intelligent stranger. No city can be truly great that does not show greatness in its humble streets, in its homes of workingmen and in those quarters where the very poor pay the landlords' profits. We all owe thanks to Senor Simeon Luz for reminding us that the veneer of wealth is unimportant as compared with all the living and striving that go to make up the sum total of humanity."