

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Some strange Equitable tales go with the Equitable Mr. Hyde.

Secretary Taft seems to have reposed quite successfully, too, on the Shaw presidential boom lid.

That royal wedding in Germany caused almost as much stir as a divorce in the New York "400."

It does look as if the Equitable policyholders would be settled a long time before the Equitable's squabble is.

Is it possible that Norway's action is the forerunner of a regular South American system of revolutionizing in Europe?

Mr. Bigelow broke down when he reached the doors of the penitentiary. A lot of his dupes were broken up a long time before.

The senate committee on railroad rate investigation hopes to have its report ready as soon as the railroad managers have collaborated.

If Japan insists on a billion dollar indemnity will she take a few Russian grand dukes in part payment to the amount of thirty cents each?

Unanimous consent is asked that Secretary Morton be allowed to retire from the cabinet. Are there any objections? The chair hears none.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat declares that "money is no shield to guilt." Perhaps not, but a lot of rascals have found it a very convenient disguise.

King Oscar received only \$130,000 a year for reigning over Norway, and that is \$2,000 a year less than Paul Morton is to receive for managing the Equitable.

Governor Hanly of Indiana believes that the anti-pass law was made to be enforced, and the public officials are tearfully bidding farewell to the pasteboards.

Japan has won because of thorough organization. Democracy has a great battle dated for 1908, and right now is the time to begin the work of thorough organization.

"I am determined to turn every rascal out," declares Mayor Weaver of Philadelphia. If he succeeds Philadelphia's democratic majority will be something enormous.

Secretary Shaw says that no one is authorized to announce that he is a candidate for the presidency. The secretary believes himself amply able in the line of vocalization.

Even the most suspicious people must admit now that President Roosevelt meant it when he said he would not again accept a republican nomination for president. His declaration that he would buy canal supplies in the cheapest market gives ample proof that he never will.

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Protectionists who disagree with Secretary Taft's ideas on purchasing canal supplies will doubtless be referred to Mr. Roosevelt's remarks on free trade a few years ago.

The "standpatters" and the "no shelter" disputants might wait until President Roosevelt is through with Russia and Japan and then ask him to take charge of their dispute.

It is beginning to strike the most sanguine that the prosecution of the railway managers who violated the rebate law is about to exhaust itself with thundering in the index.

Doubtless General Gosvenor has figures at hand to prove that the opponents of the "standpatters" are materially aiding in making the general's re-election extremely difficult.

The Atlantic Monthly declares that "eating is no joke." There are several thousand people in this country who would laugh heartily on receiving an invitation to a square meal.

Henry James says the English of American newspapers is appallingly bad. Perhaps, but it makes more interesting reading than the "splendidly good" English of Mr. James' novels.

With a fine eye for future possibilities the Houston Post remarks that if the railway managers do not meet the people half way the people will yank the railway magnates all the way.

St. Louis wants \$100,000,000 from Uncle Sam to broaden and deepen the Mississippi. What, and add some more to the charges for the longer haul over the bridge by the terminal company?

The report that President Roosevelt favors a red-headed man for president reminds us that Mr. Shaw will soon be in a position to suit unless Mr. Taft quits pestivating with the Shaw boom.

The newspapers that are so roundly denouncing President Shea of the Chicago Teamsters' union for accepting bribe money should turn a little of their attention to the liberal advertisers who put up the bribe money, if any was really up.

President Roosevelt has appointed a committee to investigate and report on what changes are needed to place the executive business of the government upon the most efficient and economic basis. In other words, President Roosevelt

wants to sever the immense tangle of red tape that is wound round the business of the government. Surely the committee appointed has a job before it in comparison with which the job of stable cleaning tackled by Hercules sinks into insignificance. If the committee succeeds in its mission, however, it will be entitled to the thanks of the people. Uncle Sam is entitled to better returns for his money than he now gets from the clerks and bureau officials who occupy elegant suites and offices in the magnificent buildings in Washington. The more red tape the president cuts the better he will please the people who are footing the bills.

Speaking of the Bigelow case the Milwaukee Sentinel says that "considering his age, habits of life, and the honorable position from which he fell, that penalty (ten years) is heavy enough to suit even the most vindictive enemy he could have." But what has his habits and his former honorable position to do with it? If anything at all it should have added to his sentence. There is entirely too much mawkish sentiment evidenced every time a man like Bigelow is punished. Men who have the advantage of high position, and all that sort of thing, have even less excuse than the average man for sinning. They know better, which is not always the case with the poor criminals caught in the act. The better a man's opportunities for realizing the difference between right and wrong the more deserving he is of punishment when he does commit a sin. There is no vindictiveness manifest by the general public against Bigelow, but a renovated public sentiment is growing very tired of pleas in extenuation made for aristocratic, educated and prominent men who have been caught stealing from the public.

Deserves Punishment the More

It is too much to hope that the protests against our present barbarous methods of celebrating the Fourth of July will have any appreciable effect this year. A system that is the result of two or three generations of indulgence is not to be wiped out in a year or two. But the protests should continue, for in good time reform will come. Common sense will triumph sooner or later, and when it does the Fourth of July, instead of being a day of blood and slaughter and noise, will be a day of intelligent rejoicing over the winning of independence. As it is now, the day is looked forward to with dread by people who are old enough to appreciate its dangers, and looked back upon with sorrow by those who have foolishly toyed with the dynamite cracker and the deadly blank cartridge.

Keep Agitating Reform

There is a queer situation in England—queer from the standpoint of American politics. For three years the government has been trying to hush up a scandal growing out of the administration of the war department during the Boer war in South Africa, and involving the loss of \$35,000,000 through corruption and graft in the handling of war supplies. But both parties in Great Britain insisted on a full and fair investigation, and the result is some disclosures that catch numerous people of high degree. The party in power was just as anxious to have an impartial investigation as the minority party. This is so contrary to what has been happening in the United States during the past seven or eight years that it is positively refreshing. Looking back upon the postal scandals, upon the trust investigations and the transportation disputation it is easy to see how different things are over in the "right little, tight little isle."

LENDING A HAND

H. R. Thomas, Logan, Ohio, writes: Herewith list of 13 new subscribers for *The Commoner*.

N. P. Condon, Donora, Pa., writes: I take pleasure in handing you herewith eleven subscribers, ten new and one renewal.

John C. Winterringer, Buckeye City, Ohio, sends list of seven subscribers, part new and part renewals.

J. A. Snyder, Easton, Ill., sends list of 12 subscribers.

Dr. J. M. Young, Little Rock, Ark., sends list of six subscribers, five new and one renewal.

W. C. Rove, Gallon, Ohio, sends in list of seven subscription cards.

L. B. Wall, Starks, Fla., sends in eleven subscription cards for eleven new subscribers for *The Commoner*.

According to the terms of the special subscription offer, cards each good for one year's subscription to *The Commoner*, will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase *The Commoner's* circulation:

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