

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The time has come when Vermont and Maine will have to do something else to attract public attention.

Governor Odell is now quite sure that it is up to Senator Platt to retire long enough to get a new reputation.

Mr. Elihu Root shows considerable hesitancy in blistering his fingers by reaching for Mr. Roosevelt's New York chestnuts.

Mr. Debs has proved beyond a doubt that Mr. Cleveland never read the report of the strike commission he himself appointed.

The continued suppression of vocalization in stately mansion in Washington portends an awful explosion sooner or later.

Perhaps the Russians and the Japanese are waiting for the completion of that "Peace Palace" at The Hague before agreeing to quit.

We frankly confess that Maine would have attracted more of our attention if it had not been for the noise made by Arkansas' 60,000.

The administration organs which claimed Mr. Parker's first statement "ambigucus" are now insisting that he was needlessly emphatic.

The well remembered Mole of St. Nicholas prevaricator seems to be dividing his time between Chifu and republican national headquarters.

Poultney Biglow declares that this country should keep 750,000 men under arms all the time. But how could we if they were all Poultneys?

A scientist now comes forward and says the English sparrow is really of Russian origin. But it is showing a great many Japanese characteristics.

The deftness exhibited by Mr. Root in side-stepping that New York gubernatorial nomination is also a straw showing the direction of the political wind.

Doubtless Mr. Cleveland now realizes that he did not wait quite long enough after Governor Altgeld's death to write that story about the Chicago strike.

With the workingman paying cake prices for plain bread the republican managers are not making such a great ado as usual about the "full dinner pail."

The duty of Colorado workingmen is to first get rid of Peabodyism. Then other matters can be settled. This is not the time for workingmen to scatter their votes.

Mr. Addicks says that if the opposition will surrender to him he will insure Delaware's electoral vote for Roosevelt. This is a sure sign that the surrender will be made. Our grounds for so believing is the Byrne appointment and other evidences of a presidential desire to placate Addicks.

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President Roosevelt has ordered his bureau chiefs not to give any hint of their estimates. This is quite similar to his boasted policy of "publicity" concerning the trusts.

Following the announcement of David B. Hill that he is shortly to retire from politics, the Joplin Globe demands the retirement from politics of the other Hill—San Juan.

Mr. Depew complains that the people take things too seriously. Is it possible that the people no longer laugh at Mr. Depew's jokes, or are the people showing signs of anger at being forever robbed?

"Where trusts are weak" is the title of a recent editorial in the Seattle Times. To our surprise the weak spot pointed out was not in their morals, although we are satisfied that it is the weakest.

"Let well enough alone," advises the president. And in the next breath he asks us to grant a huge subsidy to the ship owners. The president seems to have mislaid his logic along with his habitual vocalization.

Naturally enough Mr. Parker's adherence to the principles of the Declaration of Independence brings down upon his head the denunciations of those who believe that the flag should pave the way for the dollar.

The Japanese have established a "protectorate" over Korea. If things turn out right for Japan that "protectorate" will eventually bear a wonderfully close resemblance to our benevolent assimilation of the Philippines.

A French writer has just issued a little booklet entitled "The Curse of Too Much Learning." Evidently he has read Josh Billing's remark to the effect that "it is better not to know so much than to know so much that ain't so."

Rothschilds paid \$5,000 for two fleas. He objects, however, to paying the engineers on his New York underground railroad \$3.50 a day. Modern commercialism is rapidly putting human beings on a cheaper scale than fleas.

An operation on the skull of a bad Indianapolis boy has made him good. This is a hint for Mr. Cortelyou. If any trust shows symptoms of being bad and refusing to contribute, let Mr. Cortelyou get out his case of surgical instruments.

The Brooklyn Eagle confesses disappointment over the Vermont returns. While claiming to be the only genuine simon-pure democratic newspaper in the country the Eagle does not possess the first and best symptoms of a democrat—optimism.

"Encouragement for the American merchant marine," is but another way of saying "subsidy." In other words, the republican leaders are in favor of bribing men to go into a business that already pays big dividends. The subsidy idea appeals to the average g. o. p. leader.

Three years of Roosevelt's administration has cost the country the enormous sum of \$250,000,000 more than four years of McKinley's administration cost, including the expense of the Spanish war and the purchase of the Philippines. Rooseveltism spells extravagance run riot.

The Illinois judges who decided that a closed shop contract is illegal would probably decide that no housewife had a legal right to choose between an Irish servant girl and a Swede servant girl. Some judges make no effort to conceal their desire to repay corporations for their political support.

Labor Day was almost universally observed in this country, and the day was marked by huge parades of workingmen and working women. One pleasing feature of the day was the splendid order maintained and the widespread desire to make it a

Labor's Best Holiday

holiday in fact as well as in name. Labor unions have not been working together in the past as they should work, but there is evidence that they are coming into closer contact every day. The interests of workingmen are identical, regardless of craft. The things that harm members of the Typographical union will also harm the members of the Leatherworkers' union. It is only by united efforts that the labor unions will be able to maintain their identity. United, they will be practically invincible when working in a just cause.

Divided, they will fall easy prey to the selfish interests that seek their destruction.

The average American will extract fun from almost any situation. The newspaper paragrapher allows nothing to stand in the way of his quip and banter, and the newspaper readers seemingly enjoy it all. The czar of Russia and the new heir to the Russian throne have been seized upon as subjects for goodnatured jest and banter.

Good Nature Banishes The Bomb

This sort of thing would not be allowed in Russia, but Russia is the worse for that. The jests are not made in any spirit of ill-nature; on the contrary, they are an evidence of friendship and good will. If Nicholas could read in Russian journals the good natured jokes and humorous references to that boy, he could feel safe from the bomb of the nihilist, and know that he was in reality endeared to the people over whom he rules. People who are allowed to be goodnatured and have their little jest, irrespective of rank or condition, are always goodnatured, and never given to thoughts of bomb and bullets. Nicholas should think the matter over.

No one at all economical of time will undertake the task of trying to find logic in a republican argument. President Roosevelt's letter of acceptance furnishes the evidence that such a task would be a waste of time. In one breath he declares that the tariff is not at issue because it has become a

Wonders of Republican Logic

"fixed principle." In the next breath he denies that the gold standard is fixed because a party polling forty-six per cent of the votes has refused to acknowledge the fact in its platforms. And yet the party which does not admit the fixity of the gold standard also denies that a protective tariff is fixed and eternal. The protective tariff as proclaimed by the republican party has been rejected oftener than the bimetallic theory, yet President Roosevelt declares a "fixture" the one oftenest rejected and denies the fixity of the other. Perhaps he means it as an admission that the present gold standard is not a fixture because it was surreptitiously secured.

It is revealed now that the government unwittingly worked a confidence game upon the land seekers who rushed so hastily to Rosebud and registered for chances in Uncle

A Huge Confidence Game

Sam's land lottery. A large per cent of those who drew "lucky numbers" are refusing to register because the land is not worth the price set upon it by the government. All the stories about there being standing offers of \$5,000, or any other sum, for certain claims, were wholly without foundation. The government reserved all the townsites, and the Indians took first pick of the land and secured all that was worth more than the government figure of \$4 an acre. It is estimated that enough was spent in railroad fare and for other expenses by land seekers to more than pay for an equal amount of land in a recognized crop section. It was the alluring possibility of getting "something for nothing" that attracted more than 125,000 to the four cities designated as registration points. The spectacle of the general government catering to this gambling mania is far from edifying.

Secretary Shaw, who is so far in the west that he can not look back to his office in Washington and see a \$50,000,000 deficit, is seemingly as careless of his facts as he is of his

The Truth About Irrigation

figures. In one of his western speeches he attempted to show that the republicans in congress, and not the democrats, deserve the credit for the support given to irrigation measures. Irrigation is of such vast importance to the west that Secretary Shaw realized the need of laying some claim that his party is entitled to all the credit for the irrigation laws. The facts are just the opposite to what Secretary Shaw claimed. The democrats not only inaugurated the national irrigation movement, but they furnished the votes to enact it into law. More democrats voted for the national irrigation law than republicans. More republicans voted against it than democrats. The figures are as follows: Democrats for, 77; republicans for 69. Democrats against, 13; republicans against, 42. The democrats voted six to one for the law; republicans voted three to five against it. Secretary Shaw either knows these facts and is trying to deceive, or he is too careless in his statements to be deserving of credence.