

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Imperialism abroad is the worst enemy of self-government at home.

The heir-to-the-throne market is unusually active these autumn days.

Doubtless Senator Platt is mad enough to engage in a little "big sticking" on his own account.

Suppose a boy was born to Czar Peabody, would it soften him as it has the czar of Russia?

Vermont received its name because of its verdancy. It probably goes republican for the same reason.

All this talk about the remarkable fortunes to be made out of "liquid air" seems to have been nothing but wind.

Perhaps the Platt-Odell fracas in New York might be settled by an application of the big stick to the belligerents.

The international marriage machine seems to be turning out an increased product of ruined matrimonial hopes.

Instead of being the "handmaiden of protection," reciprocity seems to be the doormat at the entrance to the trust temple.

Now that Russia abandons the policy of exiling offenders, republican Colorado seems to be the only exporter of human beings.

It is barely possible that the Russians put the Lena into an American port with a view to saving her for the nucleus of a new navy.

George Ade says that Indiana will give a republican majority of 40,000. Mr. Ade continues to write and say some awfully funny things.

The g. o. p. campaign will not be fully opened until General Grosvenor begins shedding figures like a cottonwood tree shedding fleece.

Mr. Taft is losing no opportunity to boost the party that boosted him. "Tafting" is the chief industry of the g. o. p. party and its leaders.

A careful reading of *The Commoner's* educational offer will point the way to an opportunity for good work in behalf of the principles of democracy.

Mr. Babcock opposes the election of a democratic congress on the ground that democrats are not satisfied with the alleged prosecution of the postal swindlers.

Democratic newspapers are comparing Theodore Roosevelt's literary work with his letter of acceptance and the administration press is already complaining about a "campaign of personalities."

The unfortunate Mr. Higgins seems to have been standing right behind Mr. Root when the latter so deftly side-stepped the New York republican nomination. The innocent bystander is getting it in the solar plexus on every side.

Uncle Tom Platt has made the horrifying discovery that Governor Odell believes in hewing to the line, let the Saratoga chips fall where they may.

Having abandoned the cruel policy of exile the czar might lean back and look at Colorado. It would show him the terrible policy he recently abandoned.

By getting together and comparing notes the cattle raiser and the beef consumer might be able to locate the gentlemen who are getting all the boasted prosperity "rake-off."

Republican stories of lack of harmony in democratic circles reminds us that there is no "big stick" in democratic circles to hammer the obstreperous into meek submission.

Romaine's "confession" that he was implicated in the Independence depot horror proves to have been as well founded as the republican claims to the responsibility for good crops and fair prices.

The New York Tribune insists that Horace Greeley named the republican party. It may be, but that is nothing compared to what some of the republican leaders of the present day have done to it.

Mr. Cortelyou undertakes to base a tariff argument upon the corset industry. We will cheerfully admit that there is something vastly better in the corset than there is in Mr. Cortelyou's statistics.

The two officials of the German postoffice system who have come over here to study our postal system arrived just too late to see an example of how postoffice schemers manage to escape through the wide meshes.

Those valuable contemporaries devoting long editorials to "the passing of Platt" should not be too previous. The "Easy Boss" is a long-headed individual and it takes him a long time to get by a given point.

President Roosevelt wrote of Jefferson that he was a "shifty doctrinaire." Doubtless if referring to his own habit of getting from one side to the other President Roosevelt would merely call it "reversal of form."

The administration points with pride to its reforestation policy. That policy would be greatly advanced by abandoning that other policy which puts a premium upon the destruction of American forests—the tariff on lumber.

The Sioux City Journal casually remarks that "Mother Hubbard Parker will make a visit to the tariff cupboard, only to find that the cupboard is bare." Does the Journal mean to admit that the trusts have taken everything in sight?

Is the Monroe doctrine today respected any more because of our growing position as a "military power" than it was in the old days when we were a world power solely because of the justice of our claims and the might of our example?

Mr. Babcock argues that if the democrats elect the next congress they will at once dig down into the past and resurrect the bones of the "exploded postal fraud charges." Mr. Babcock's regard for the sanctity of those "bones" is truly fetching.

Willie C. Carnegie is said to have been offered a million dollars if he won the world's golf championship. Willie is a nephew of Andrew. Andrew's millions were as easily earned as the million Willie might have had if a Chicago man had not stepped in and won the championship.

Timothy Woodruff says he is not at all cast down because he failed to secure the gubernatorial nomination from the New York republican convention. Mr. Woodruff will be postively delighted over it the morning after the Tuesday after the first Monday in November next.

President Roosevelt argues that the falling off in the surplus is due to the repeal of the war taxes. The president's fine disregard for the real facts grows more noticeable as the campaign progresses. A little study of revenue figures will show that the president will have to find some other reason for the disappearance of the surplus. In 1900, with

the war taxes still in force the income of the government was \$567,000,000. The income for 1903, with the war tax repealed, was \$560,000,000, or only \$7,000,000 less than when the war taxes were in force. Clearly this difference of \$7,000,000 will not explain the sudden disappearance of the surplus. In 1899, with the war taxes in force, the nation's income was \$516,000,000. During the year just closed, with no war taxes, the income was \$540,000,000, or \$24,000,000 more than it was in 1899 with war taxes imposed.

The Minneapolis Journal gives statistics concerning the standing armies of Germany, France, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, Turkey and other European nations, and then says that in view of their enormous size and cost our own standing army of 63,000 appears ridiculously small. It ridicules the idea that our standing army is too large and lays much stress upon the size of the European armies. But the Journal really begs the question. The question is not, How does our standing army compare in size with the standing armies of Europe? It is, How does our standing army compare in size with the real needs of this republic for a large standing army? The influence wielded by this nation does not depend upon its army or its navy, but upon its regard for principle and right. No sane man will declare that this nation's influence for good is greater today, with its vastly increased army and navy, than it was ten, fifteen or even fifty years ago. The power of a good example reaches further than the charge of armies or the shells of 13-inch guns. When this nation abandoned moral force and put its reliance in the "big stick" it lost more than it can ever regain by armies and navies.

The chief question before the voters of Colorado is the abandonment of the reign of lawlessness and disorder prosecuted by selfish interests in the name of law and order. The paramount issue is the forced retirement of Peabody and Peabodyism, with their attendant evils of disregard for law and courts of justice and their sneers for the will of the voters as expressed at the ballot box. This is not the time for Colorado voters to divide on merely partisan lines. When Peabodyism has been stamped out there will be time enough to consider other matters. Alva Adams, the democratic nominee for governor stands for law and order and industrial peace. Peabody stands for disregard of the constitution, disregard of the will of the people and disregard for courts and human rights. The laboring men of Colorado will be untrue to themselves if they fail to grasp their opportunity and permit the re-election of Peabody by running a "labor candidate" for governor. Nothing would suit the enemies of organized labor better than that. Let labor be united to elect Adams and defeat Peabody, and after this is accomplished there will be time and opportunity for attempting to secure needed reforms.

Walter Wellman writes a very pretty story to the Chicago Record-Herald about the republican national committee being short of funds. According to Mr. Wellman certain trust magnates were asked as individuals to subscribe to the campaign fund, but met as trust representatives and demanded to know what Mr. Roosevelt's policy would be toward their corporations. When the president heard of it, says Mr. Wellman, he refused to consider the matter and declared that there would be neither "arrangement" nor "understanding." The Wellman story makes interesting reading in view of all the well known facts. The greatest trust magnates have openly declared for Roosevelt, and the idea that the trusts are afraid of the administration will strike the average thinker as ridiculous, in view of all the facts. Before becoming president Mr. Roosevelt talked very loudly about "shackling cunning," but after becoming president he said little and has done less about "shackling cunning." A harmless injunction against the beef trust and a prosecution of the merger case that in no wise affected the railroad situation insofar as the people are concerned make up the sum total of his promised "shackling." In the meantime the chief weapon forged for use against the trusts—the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law—lies rusting in the basement of the government's legal department. Mr. Wellman seems either to believe the people very credulous or is running short of subjects for newspaper articles.

Fine Disregard for the Facts