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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Uncle Joe Cannon insists that the republican party is "the party that does things." And people,

Governor Wright of the Philippines says that "continued talk of Filipino independence has its effect here," meaning that it makes "benevolent despotism" all the harder. It certainly has the effect of keeping the carpetbaggers warmed up.

The republican platform of 1860 denounced "democratic extravagance" and demanded a return to "rigid economy." In 1860 the per capita expense of government was \$2. In 1904, under republican rule, the per capita expense of government is \$7.14.

Ex-Senator Peffer is now supporting Roosevelt, and a lot of republican organs have suddenly become convinced that Mr. Peffer is a student, a philosopher and a patriot, instead of a "blithering mouthpiece of calamity" and a "croaking prophet of evil and misfortune."

Already there is talk of hiring coolie labor on the Panama canal. This is another species of "protection to American labor" that we read so much about in the administration papers owned by giant trusts that avail themselves of foreign contract labor at every opportunity.

Is it not rather a poor argument to say that the Filipinos are too ignorant to be independent, and in the next breath complain about their newspapers printing long editorials on the question of independence. A people having newspapers is a people rather well fitted for independence.

The Iris is a weekly magazine, published at St. Louis by Miss Pearle M. Garrett, and soundly democratic. Not only is it perhaps the only democratic publication edited solely by a woman, but it is edited with signal ability and is exerting a growing influence in favor of democratic reforms.

Governor Wright of the Philippines starts off by talking of the Filipino incapacity for self-government because of ignorance, and winds up by complaining that the native newspapers discuss the question altogether too much. Governor Wright should take a day off and try to make his logic track.

Mr. Cortelyou waited until the Maine returns were in and then said he was greatly gratified at the 30,000 plurality because his preliminary canvas indicated a plurality of only 25,000. Huh, we expected only 40,000 from Arkansas and it was upwards of 60,000. This "hindsight" prognostication is not so hard.

Having piled up an unconstitutional debt of over \$2,000,000 in Nebraska the republican managers of that state are denouncing as unpatriotic and selfish all who find fault with the workings of a republican revenue law that lays the burden of the increased taxes on the farmers and small home owners.

J. Sloat Fassett made a speech at the New York republican convention. In that speech, while praising "the fearlessness of President Roosevelt,"

he declared that the president had even dared to "defy the labor unions." The republican organs will be busy from now until election day trying to explain away that remark.

The eminent financiers who engineered "get-rich-quick" schemes earlier in the year and were frowned upon by the authorities, should now watch the coal trust magnates. The latter are working their scheme to perfection without even so much as a protest from the men who were selected to enforce the anti-trust laws.

The navy that whipped Spain cost the country \$37,000,000 in 1897. There is no call for spending \$102,000,000 on the navy this year, or next year. The fact that the republican administration spent that much on it last year is only another evidence of republican extravagance—if, indeed, a stronger word would not better fit the case.

The Denver Republican, with fine disregard of all sentiment and due regard for political facts, says: "A few men have millions invested in this state," and then boldly intimates that these few men purpose seeing that its political policies suit them. This goes a long ways towards explaining the present unfortunate state of affairs in Colorado.

New York republicans recently held a little celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the party in that state. Among the speakers was Senator Depew, but he did not make any reference to the time when he was candidate for secretary of state on the democratic ticket. Senator Depew does not tell all the funny things he knows.

Walter Wellman says he wants to give the Parker people all the comfort possible "because we must have a campaign." Mr. Wellman would doubtless find plenty to interest and keep him busy by following up his challenge to the trades unions in that Colorado matter. Just now it looks as though the well-known correspondent is trying to "shift the issue."

One of the republican papers says that it is not necessary for the president to make any campaign speeches because "the American people know where he stands on every issue that concerns their welfare." Where does he stand on the labor question and on the Philippine question? He studiously avoids these questions. And where does he stand on the second term question?

There are upwards of 440 "big trusts." The administration prosecuted one through the supreme court and secured a verdict. Since then that trust has kept right on doing business, its managers have not been molested, and the people have been profited not at all. This is the sum total of the work done by the great trust busting administration whose head only a few years ago was talking about "shackling cunning."

The Fremont (Neb.) Tribune remarks that "when a man calls himself an 'independent' it means that he is a democrat without the courage or hardihood to admit it." There is room for disagreement on the statement that such a man is a "democrat without the courage or hardihood or courage to admit it," but it will be pretty generally agreed that when a man becomes really an independent thinker he at once ceases to be a republican. And it will be further agreed with general unanimity that when a man does show symptoms of doing his own thinking and voting his sober and honest convictions, the thick-and-thin republican organs immediately charge him with having become a democrat. And the charge is always a compliment to the man and a sad commentary on the republican organs.

It is announced that there will be no further attempts to push the ten indictments against ex-Mayor of Minneapolis, and the district attorney is quoted as saying that the dismissal of the prosecution is due to the fact that any further attempts to prosecute Ames would "give the city a feverish and offensive reputation." This is about the poorest excuse that could be offered for failure to enforce the law. If ex-Mayor Ames is guilty as charged, his conviction and punishment would be the best advertisement Minneapolis could have.

Failure to prosecute through fear of "hurting business" is not only cowardly and criminal, but it is the worst possible advertisement Minneapolis could have.

People who read the casualty list of the battle of Liao-Yang were shocked by the great number of killed and wounded. The whole world has shuddered with horror at that and other great battles of modern times—Gettysburg, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Shiloh and others. But how many have given thought to the tremendous sacrifice of life annually made upon the railroads of this republic? During the year ending June 30, 1904, 9,840 people were killed in railroad accidents in the United States, and 76,553 injured. One railroad employe in every 364 was killed, and one in every 22 injured. The recent battle of Liao-Yang was not productive of more dead and injured than our American railroads during the twelve months ending on the day above mentioned. Clearly there is every reason why the attention of the people should be centered upon this horrible death list, and more energetic efforts made to reduce the casualties.

General Corbin's recommendation that army officers be not permitted to marry until they can prove their ability to live within their incomes sounds rather strange, coming as it does from an army officer who happened to marry a wife credited with a fortune of a round million. The lowest pay of a second lieutenant, \$1,400 a year, is considerably more than twice the average wage of American workingmen, yet if American workingmen refused to marry until their incomes exceeded \$1,400 a year the threat of "race suicide" would really amount to something. Adjutant General Corbin has exerted a great influence in army circles—an influence not always for the betterment of the service. But when he attempts to fetter the limbs of Cupid or put the little god out of business upon his own military motion, he has tackled a job that will prove much easier of accomplishment than that undertaken by King Canute when he attempted to control the tides by his royal ukase.

The administration organs are calling down maledictions upon the head of ex-Senator Towne for declaring that Abraham Lincoln, were he alive today, would be a democrat. Ex-Senator Towne, of course, has no means of knowing what Lincoln would be were he alive today, but a study of Lincoln's life and public speeches and writings affords strong evidence that he would not be a republican as the republican party is today made up. The Commoner defies any administration organ or leader to find anywhere in Lincoln's utterances one word that can be construed into an argument in favor of the republican party's Philippine policy. It challenges any republican leader or organ to find anywhere in Lincoln's utterances one word that can be construed into an argument in favor of the republican party's attitude towards trusts and monopolies. In short, The Commoner challenges any republican organ to quote Abraham Lincoln at length upon any subject.

The Globe-Democrat of St. Louis remarks that "The best way for the Filipinos to gain their independence is to deserve it." But who is to be the judge? Shall the decision be left to the Filipinos, or to the exploiters who find it profitable to refuse independence to the Filipinos? How long would it have taken our revolutionary sires to gain American independence if they had been content to wait until George III and Lord North, or their successors, decided that they deserved it? When the Globe-Democrat winds up the above statement with the additional statement that "this is the plan that other patriots have pursued the world over," it states what it must know to be untrue. Knowing that they deserved independence, despite the denials of George III, our revolutionary fathers proceeded to take it. The same is true of every other nation that has secured independence. The evil effects of imperialism upon the thought of this republic becomes more manifest every day, and especially so in the false logic, specious arguments and false assumptions of those who, for partisan reasons, feel that they must support a policy which their Americanism must tell them is un-American, unpatriotic and unjust.

More Terrible Than Any Battle

Corbin vs Cupid

Republicans Then And Now

Perverting History For Effect

Independent or Democrat

Advertising Good And Bad