

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Quite a number of mills are starting up—for political purposes.

Mr. Carnegie, however, managed to work quite a few big schemes after he was 35.

The 'policy of silence' is also advocated by the bank burglar and the porch climber.

It is quite evident that by "not running amuck" was meant doing absolutely nothing to curb the trusts.

The trusts who bar from work all men over 35 will keep right on putting the tariff tax on men of all ages.

The trusts seem to think they can deceive the workingmen by making the dinnerpail smaller in order that it may be kept full.

Mr. Watterson is meeting with some trouble in his efforts to drive out the short editorial paragraph with seven-column editorials.

Mr. Babcock of Wisconsin and Senator Spooner of the same state are wearing their wig-wag flags to tatters signalling for help.

Mr. Armour is enthusiastically supporting President Roosevelt. The head of the beef trust knows an injunctionless injunction when he sees it.

Among other reasons for asking a policy of silence regarding the Philippine situation is the matter of \$15,000 a year salary for the governor general.

The indications are that the financial managers of the g. o. p. committee are doing considerable "big sticking" in certain financial circles.

It is to be hoped that the newspaper man who has just been made postmaster general will proceed at once to blue pencil a lot of the rascality in the P. O. D.

The forty million dollar deficiency silence of Mr. Shaw has been rudely shattered by the stenorian six million dollar surplus shouts of the same gentleman.

Mr. Carnegie says he will have peace even if he has to fight for it. And Mr. Carnegie will have a protective tariff even if he has to finance the whole republican campaign.

It seems, however, that Senator Spooner did not begin to feel sorry about it until it threatened to defeat him for re-election. That kind of sorrow often overwhelms men.

J. Ogden Armour says he likes Roosevelt because "he is a man of decided views." He seems to have decided to the complete satisfaction of Mr. Armour and his beef trust.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat complains because the Filipinos are holding meetings looking to independence. A little dip into history will disclose that the Globe-Democrat is merely trying to imitate George III and Lord North.

Albion W. Tourgee is writing campaign documents for the g. o. p. committee. Mr. Tourgee is holding down a fat consulate at Bordeaux, and is a stand-patter from away back.

A \$2,000,000 oil company in New Jersey was sold for \$200 the other day. That forcibly reminds one of the difference between republican promises and republican fulfillment.

The postscript to the Roosevelt letter of acceptance is due, overruling the United States supreme court on that common law point. The supreme court must not grow presumptuous.

Congressman Landis says "Indiana will go 60,000 for Roosevelt." The congressman got his hand two boxes up and two boxes to the left out of the way when he reached for the first figure.

The announcement that Hay will be retained in the event of Mr. Roosevelt's election is interesting only for the reason that it shows one office for which Mr. Cortelyou will not be mentioned.

An administration organ declares that the United States steel corporation is trying to make trouble for Roosevelt. The campaign may be unusually quiet, but certainly it is not lacking in humor.

Perhaps General Grosvenor's failure to submit any election figures is due to the fact that he realizes the hopelessness of trying to compete with Carroll D. Wright's figures on wages and the cost of living.

A little study of history will reveal that Chatham and Barre were also admonished to keep still because their talks had the effect of stirring the American colonists to renewed efforts for independence.

Governor Corbin bases his opposition to the marriage of army officers on the ground that the cost of living has greatly increased. Corbin is breeding a reprimand that will make the Miles snub look like a fulsome compliment.

The Yale News blames the rigidity of the examinations for the decreased attendance at that college. It may be possible, however, that the increased demands for physical development on the football team has something to do with it.

The Philadelphia North American is printing long editorials in advocacy of the protective tariff. The North American circulates largely in a community that votes solidly for a municipal system that filches millions annually from the pockets of the taxpayers, and such a community is fertile ground for the sowing of protective tariff seed.

The Cedar Rapids (Ia.) Gazette gives a whole tariff sermon in one short sentence when it says:

Will Not Explain—It Can Not "So far as the farmers are concerned they will understand a great deal better the benefits received from the tariff if some one will explain why it makes no difference to them whether they sell their products for the protected market or for exportation." In other words, if protection protects the farmer he should get a higher price for the product sold for home consumption than for the product sold for foreign consumption. But the fact is, the price of the product sold at home is regulated by the export price. Wheat is "protected" by the Dingley law, but this country exports wheat instead of importing it. Thousands of Nebraska and Kansas farmers vote in favor of a "protective duty" on lumber when their states have no native supply and are compelled to buy from outside states and of a lumber trust that is bulwarked behind that same tariff. The tariff is a good thing for the men who make the goods and are enabled to add the amount of the duty to the profits, but what about the millions who have to pay the added profits?

Speaker Cannon declares that the election of a democratic house "would be a calamity." From Speaker Cannon's standpoint perhaps it would. He would lose an \$8,000 job, the trusts would lose their grip on the pocketbooks of the people, the railroads would be compelled to accept just what the public must accept in the way of laws and the enforcement thereof, the carpetbaggers in the Philippines would have to look around for some other profitable graft, the postoffice swindlers would either have to fly to some foreign shore or go to

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jail, the trust magnates would find themselves confronted by criminal prosecutions instead of injunctions that did not enjoin, the hangers-on at the public crib would find their supply of sustenance cut off, the corporation lobbyists would find themselves compelled to give honest work for the appropriations they secured, and an army of useless clerks appointed for political reasons would have to return to their homes and go to work. Indeed, calamity—dire calamity—would befall a whole lot of beneficiaries of special interests if a democratic congress should be elected on the eighth day of next month.

Mr. Knox, late attorney general and now a United States senator by appointment at the earnest solicitation of Frick and Cassatt, is stumping the country for the republican ticket. At Philadelphia he asked: "What individual would dismiss a faithful, experienced, competent and successful management of a great business enterprise and substitute one without experience, aptitude or sympathy with its purposes?" The answer is quite easy—no wise individual would do such a thing. But what individual would retain in his employ a blustering maker of promises that were never fulfilled, who ignored the rights of fellow business men, wasted the receipts of the business by employing useless, incompetent and dishonest underlings, and constantly ridiculed as "old foggy and antiquated" the business ideas that made the individual employer wealthy, influential and respected of all men? Being so free to ask questions Mr. Knox should not object to answering one occasionally.

A Question For Mr. Knox

Secretary to the President Loeb should read up. It is quite evident that he is not familiar with the writings of his illustrious chief. Recently Captain Glenn, democratic nominee for governor of North Carolina, made use of a quotation from one of the Roosevelt books to the effect that "there ran through the veins of the southern people a streak of coarse brutality." Thomas S. Rollins, chairman of the republican state committee of North Carolina immediately wrote to Secretary Loeb and asked him if Mr. Roosevelt had been correctly quoted. Secretary Loeb's reply was immediate and emphatic, but sadly lacking in truth. He replied: "The statements you refer to are absolutely false" Mr. Roosevelt is the author of a book entitled "Life of Thomas H. Benton." The book was copyrighted by Mr. Roosevelt in 1886. On page 161 of "Life of Thomas H. Benton" will be found the following sentence, written by Theodore Roosevelt: "Slavery was chiefly responsible for the streak of coarse and brutal barbarism which ran through the southern character." This is proof positive that Captain Glenn's statement was not "absolutely false." And the proof was so near to Secretary Loeb's hand that he can not be excused for being ignorant.

Roosevelt Wrote It Himself

The Milwaukee Sentinel, commenting upon Senator Spooner's speech delivered a few nights before, says: "A more eloquent appeal for the maintenance of representative government, a more vivid portrayal of the dangers that threaten self-government, a more patriotic, inspiring call to arms in defense of the ideals of the fathers of the republic it would be difficult to conceive." All of which sounds very pretty, but when put alongside the acts committed by the party to which Senator Spooner belongs it shows the folly of the senator. Imagine, if you can, the fathers of the republic holding such an "ideal" as that contained in the republican party's Philippine policy—or lack of policy. Reflect for a moment upon the spectacle of a man making eloquent appeal for self-government, and denying the right of self-government to a people who want it enough to die for it, but who are held in subjection by the party of the man making eloquent plea for self-government. And then imagine, if you can, a man making eloquent appeal for the maintenance of representative government and boasting of his fealty to a party that makes mock of representative government and caters to the trusts and corporations. Representative government, forsooth! Senator Spooner's party is the party that stands in the way of reform in the method of electing senators because popular election of senators would give the people and not the trusts representation in the senate. Senator Spooner's "eloquent plea" forcibly reminds one of the youth who murdered his parents, and when adjudged guilty and asked what he had to say before sentence was pronounced, entered a plea for mercy on the ground that he was an orphan.

A Plea In Abatement

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