

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

That Formosan earthquake wasn't even a respectable encore.

The true democrat is not discouraged. On the contrary he is already at work.

Having failed to find use for their roosters the democratic editors of the country need not run short of Thanksgiving provender.

The tariff certainly is in the hands of its friends. But what about the people who have to pay the tax instead of spending it?

In a short time General Bell of Colorado will have ample leisure in which to boast of how he waged war on women and children.

No one, however, expects Mr. Cortelyou to publish a list of his campaign contributors together with the amounts contributed.

That slight rustling sound from the extreme east may be President Roosevelt preparing something equally good for Senator Spooner.

If the turkey trust will have the effect of putting a quietus on the turkey hash Thanksgiving joke a great many of us will not complain.

One of the greatest compliments paid to Judge Parker came from "Prophet" Dowie's Zion City. Judge Parker did not receive a vote in that place.

David B. Hill is about the most successful political prophet in the country. Long before election day he said he would retire on January 1, 1905.

The bandits who held up and robbed the miniature railroad at the St. Louis exposition must have felt like they were taking candy from little children.

The czar intimates that he has not yet begun to fight. Some 25,000 or 30,000 of the private soldiers at the front, however, have quit fighting, and quit forever.

"There is but one Grover Cleveland!" shouts the Brooklyn Eagle. The Eagle is entitled to thanks for digging up something for the democrats to be thankful for.

Having admitted that the Philippines have cost us over \$180,000,000, perhaps Secretary Taft will pause long enough to tell us what the returns on the investment have been.

The St. Louis exposition has discharged its debt to Uncle Sam. This means that Secretary Shaw will have to hunt up something else to explain the deficits as they appear.

The mere mention of Senator Spooner for attorney general is evidence that the trusts knew what they were about when they secured the retention of the present administration.

The Brooklyn Eagle is another of those democratic organs that won by losing. That brand of

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democratic organ does not appeal, however, to the rank and file of the democracy.

Within thirty-six hours after the election of Roosevelt the Standard Oil company increased the price of crude oil 4 cents a gallon. The trusts are quick to recognize a great opportunity.

Only \$474,000 of the \$500,000 appropriation for trust busting purposes remains in the treasury. And it is likely to remain there until it can be used without seriously injuring the trusts.

The Nashville American's attempts at explanation are almost as sound and logical as its republican editor's editorials in support of the Nashville American's peculiar brand of democracy.

Young Mr. Rockefeller continues to warn his Sunday school class of the folly of seeking riches. This may be an intimation that the senior Rockefeller has no intention of letting go of a bit of it.

Mr. Schwab says that confidence has been restored by the results of the election. To be sure. The ship building trust, the steel trust, the oil trust, and every other trust feels much better over it.

The Philadelphia Ledger is complaining about the enormous election frauds practiced in that city, but the men who practice them are both complaint proof and masters of the legal departments.

It is rumored that Mr. Shaw will retire from the cabinet in order to incubate his presidential aspirations. We greatly fear that Leslie M. Shaw is about to waste a lot of valuable time on a china doorknob.

A lot of administration organs, referring to the election of W. L. Douglas in Massachusetts, say that "it pays to advertise." Of course it does. And it also pays to stand for principles and honestly advocate them.

Pension Commissioner Ware has resigned and will return to Kansas to practice law and write poetry. Mr. Ware is much better at writing poetry than in managing the pension department. This is intended as a compliment to "Ironquill."

The returns from Pennsylvania do not indicate that democrats are growing less in numbers. They merely indicate that the republican machine never stops counting fraudulent ballots in Philadelphia until it is time to return the poll books.

The Buffalo Evening News says: "The gentlemen who figured out that Mr. Roosevelt is not a vote getter would better buy republican lead pencils." That's the only kind that can be bought in this country since the graphite trust was organized.

The vice president-elect, Mr. Fairbanks, made a neat speech when the Liberty Bell was started on its way back to Philadelphia from St. Louis. In fact it was a beautiful speech. "It stands for liberty as the cross stands for Christianity," said Mr. Fairbanks. "A million men would shoulder muskets and fight, if necessary, to preserve this relic." Beautiful thoughts and sentiments! But they are not intended for Filipino ears.

The politicians will do well to study carefully the vote in Massachusetts. Some explanation other than the popularity of Mr. Douglas must be offered for that gentleman's substantial victory, and it may be found in the labor vote of the state. Union

labor is especially strong in Massachusetts, and in addition to being a large employer of union labor, Mr. Douglas had the advantage of running against a competitor who had earned the enmity of the unions. Governor Bates vetoed a bill seeking to prevent the employment of children in large factories at night, although the laboring classes of the state deluged him with petitions asking him to sign the bill. He preferred, however, to veto it at the request of the influential "business interests" that think more of profits than of human life and comfort. As a result the union vote was cast solidly for Mr. Douglas. In addition to this, Mr. Douglas made a splendid campaign in favor of Canadian reciprocity, which is of great

moment to the majority of Massachusetts' people. But it was the labor vote that carried Mr. Douglas to victory, and in the solidification of that vote is an object lesson that the politicians would do well to study.

Secretary Morton, at a banquet a few nights since, remarked that this nation now has in the white house a president who will see to it that this nation has the largest navy in the world. But how long will it remain the largest navy after it is made

such? Some other nation, viewing our naval strength with alarm, will build one a little larger. Another nation will build one still larger, and then we will have to add a lot more to our own. Thus the "endless chain" will be continued through eternity, unless the common sense of the people comes to their rescue. Secretary Morton's statement recalls the story of the western farmer who wanted more land so he could raise more corn to sell for money with which to buy more land to raise more corn to sell for money with which to buy more land to raise more corn to sell for money with which to buy more land to raise more corn, etc., etc., and so on, until the Almighty interfered and put a stop to his greed. The story has an application, if the "big stick" advocates will only search for it.

The mere fact that Senator Spooner should be mentioned in connection with the attorney generalship in the new Roosevelt cabinet is sufficient to expose the pretended anti-trust sentiments of President Roosevelt. Senator Spooner owes his political

prominence in large measure to corporation influence, and his business interests would certainly influence him in the discharge of the duties of attorney general. The voters of Wisconsin have expressed their disapproval of Senator Spooner, and his defeat for re-election was practically assured when he showed his inability to defeat Governor LaFollette. Naturally enough his friends and chief backers are interested in providing him with something "equally good," but to even mention him in connection with the office whose incumbent is charged with the duty of enforcing the anti-trust laws is an affront to the people.

One great trouble with the eastern press is its provincialism. The great editors of the great eastern papers too often exhibit gross ignorance of all the country lying west of the Allegheny mountains. Even Harper's

Weekly, which has for years boasted itself a "journal of civilization," has not yet grasped the bigness and broadness of this republic. In its issue of November 15 it undertakes to draw some conclusions from the popular vote, and in a comparison between Missouri and Massachusetts says "Missouri's educational qualifications are not so distinguished as Massachusetts'." Perhaps not, when it comes to posing and self-gratulation, but the figures and facts show otherwise. Out of a total population of 856,684 of voting age, Missouri has 60,327 illiterates, or 14 in each thousand of voting age. Massachusetts with a population of 843,465 of voting age, has 53,694 illiterates, or 12 in each thousand of voting age. Taking into consideration that Massachusetts has only 10,000 negroes, while Missouri has 46,000 of voting age, and the further fact that Massachusetts had colleges, universities and a public school system before Missouri was even dreamed of as a member of the sisterhood of states, the average man will experience difficulty in believing that Massachusetts' "educational qualifications" are entitled to especial distinction over those of Missouri. Perhaps Harper's Weekly would like to make comparisons between eastern states and western states, New York and Massachusetts with Nebraska and Iowa, for instance. Or between Connecticut and Vermont and Wyoming and Colorado. Missouri is doubtless willing to be compared with Massachusetts, and Nebraska is willing to stand up alongside any or all of her sisters and submit to the educational test. By the way, does Harper's Weekly know that the public library of Kansas City circulates more books annually than the city library of Boston? In all kindness The Commoner suggests to Harper's Weekly that it stand upon its tiptoes and peep westward over the top of the Appalachian range. Artist Remington's pictures are very pretty, but they are not typical of the west today.

Another Endless Chain Scheme

Something Good For Spooner

Some Educational Figures

The Labor Vote Solidifying