

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The newspaper guessing contest must go.

A lottery under any other name is just as bad.

It took just about 18,000 words for the president to conceal his thoughts upon the tariff.

The standpatters and stayputters seem to have put the revisionists off duty before daylight.

How long would the message have been if President Roosevelt had tackled the tariff question?

The trusts will continue to Chadwickize the people just as long as the people continue to stand for it.

The Columbus Press-Post opines that Mrs. Chadwick may be this country's J. Pierpont Morgan.

It may be that President Roosevelt suffered a stroke of writer's cramp before he reached the tariff part of the message.

"Foolkiller No. 3" performed its mission. Doubtless Nos. 1 and 2 made the mistake of stopping to expectorate on their hands.

Many public libraries are barring Mark Twain's books, which indicates that Mark is fortunate in having a shrewd and enterprising press agent.

The newspapers continue to demand "short and inexpensive" sessions of the legislatures. But did anybody ever see legislative sessions of that kind?

That portion of the message treating of the Filipino claim of independence sounds as if it had been written some one hundred and thirty years ago by George III.

The trouble with tariff revisionists is that they do all of their strenuous work before election, and then lie down to rest while congress listens to the standpatters.

Senator Dietrich of Nebraska proposes to work federal prisoners on the Panama canal. Most of the federal prisoners are those who could not secure acquittal on technicalities.

Cartoonist McCutcheon's "Mysterious Stranger" is good, but it simply means that Missouri has gone "piking" for the purpose of mingling for a time with the bizarre, the mysteries and the outre.

The Boston Herald has been barred from getting government news by order of the president. The Boston Herald is the latest convert to the belief that lese majeste applies in a republic.

The Philadelphia grand jury has indicted fifty dealers in adulterated food, probably for the purpose of taking up its time so it could not reach the case of the registration list and ballotbox stuffers.

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When the New York Tribune states that it favors tariff reduction it probably means that it favors a reduction in the demand for tariff reduction. The Tribune is long on using language to conceal its thoughts.

Secretary Wilson pays a great tribute to the American hen. The hen deserves it, chiefly because she attends strictly to business and never threatens to quit work if she is not allowed to frame the egg and poultry schedules.

A reader of *The Commoner* asks where he can secure a copy of a book entitled "Ten Men of Money Isle." If anyone who is able to give the information will send it to *The Commoner* on a postal card the information will be published for the benefit of the readers.

Carroll D. Wright is talking of resigning, and naturally the political managers are protesting. Mr. Wright is the only man they can find who can come anywhere near making a considerable number of people believe that working for \$3.00 and paying \$4.00 a day to live is better than working for \$2.00 a day and paying \$1.75 to live.

According to the New York World, when it refused to support the democratic ticket in 1896 it was patriotic, honest and deserving of the thanks of all men, but when other democrats refused to support the ticket selected by the World in 1904 they were treasonable, shameless and vindictive. The World should use arnica on its bruises.

The New York World mournfully declares that the election returns show that "William J. Bryan's followers fed fat their grudge against the 're-organizers.'" The World, while still insisting that it has a right to define democratic principles and bolt if they are not accepted, refuses to admit that others have the same rights. The world grows flightier as the days go by. Also funnier.

Mr. Bryan receives many clippings sent for reproduction in *The Commoner*, but some of them are so complimentary to himself that he does not quote from them. The article by John Russell in the Forum is one of this kind. Mr. Bryan appreciates the generous commendation spoken, but does not want to make use of *The Commoner* for the circulation of favorable notices of himself. He is trying to make it the exponent of democratic principles.

Secretary Taft is in Panama, striving to settle some difficulties between this great republic and the little one separated, said Senator Morgan, from its maternal parent, Colombia, by a Caesarian operation. Even the most pronounced administration organs are showing evidences of being willing to admit that the whole Panama affair was ill-advised. The Portland Oregonian remarks that "it has recently become obvious that the republic of Panama is forever to be a nuisance to us and a menace to our peace." Panama is without international responsibility and its administration conducted by professional revolutionists. The San Francisco Argonaut, which is more than friendly to the administration, bewails the situation and asks: "If Uncle Sam has got to be father, mother, brother, sister, guardian, and wet-nurse to Panama, in the name of common sense, why not adopt the infant?"

The student of contemporaneous political history will have no difficulty in tracing the president's silence on the question of tariff revision to a sore heel. In September, 1902, President Roosevelt started on a little "swing around the circle." As he penetrated further and further into the west his utterances in favor of tariff revision grew more radical. At Logansport, Ind., he spoke of "changes in duties upon particular schedules, which must inevitably and necessarily take place." And he even mentioned the idea of a tariff commission to investigate and report to congress. But that was the climax of his revision talk. An injury to his heel, received early in the trip at Pittsfield, Mass., compelled him to cut short the "swing" and return to Washington. Then came Mr. Hanna with his "stand pat" slogan, and tariff revision talk among the g. o. p. leaders was effectually squelched. What the president would have said had his heel not been hurt and his trip extended through into Iowa or Nebraska, is a matter of conjecture. But

his heel was injured, his trip cut short and his tariff revision utterances silenced from that time henceforth. The connection, therefore, between a wounded heel and the utter ignoring of the tariff in his last message, is so plain that he who runs may read.

In his address as president to the recent annual convention of the Citizens' Industrial association, David M. Parry denounced labor unions on the grounds that they were opposed to the militia system. While Mr. Parry was talking the American Federation of Labor, representing 2,500,000 organized workingmen, was in session at San Francisco, and the Federation by a large majority voted down a resolution denouncing the militia of the several states. The trouble with Mr. Parry and a number of his companions in the Citizen's Industrial association seems to be that they insist upon judging organized labor by its worst while insisting that employers be judged by their best. If this is a sample of Mr. Parry's fairness in all of his discussions of the labor problem the public will not long take him seriously.

American tanners now import hides, tan them and export them and get a rebate amounting to practically the full duty upon the hides. If the hides are tanned and the leather worked up by the leather workers of this country, the tariff is not rebated. This means that American shoe manufacturers must pay more for their leather than their foreign competitors, and naturally the enhanced price of the leather falls upon those who purchase the shoes. In other words, the duty on hides in connection with the rebates, puts a premium on enhanced prices in this country, and is an inducement to ship abroad and sell at a lower price than is charged the American consumer. Why should not American wearers of shoes be treated as fairly by the tariff as the foreign wearers of American made shoes?

The presidential ban upon the Boston Herald has been somewhat modified. Because the Herald printed a story from Washington to the effect that the president's sons chased a turkey across the White house grounds and snatched a few feathers from its tail, the president issued an order forbidding public officials from giving the Boston Herald's reporters any information. But the president has modified the order and the Herald may now have the daily weather reports and other "routine" news. We are astonished that the Herald should have printed such a story. The idea that any boy, much less the son of a president, would chase a stray turkey, or set a dog upon a cat, or anything else like that—the idea, we repeat, that the Boston Herald should believe such a thing possible of any boy is preposterous. The presidential ban upon the Herald should have been even more harsh. If we are going to have any of this lese majeste business in this republic, let us have it in all its glory.

The grandson of Stonewall Jackson has been recommended to the president for appointment to a cadetship at West Point. The "Concessions" New York Sun, referring to this fact, says: The president will do a graceful act if he appoints the grandson of Stonewall Jackson a cadet at the Military Academy. It will be an earnest of his good will toward the South and the south will not be insensible. If the young gentleman receives the appointment it should be because he is entitled to the place, and not with any idea of "pacifying" the South. There is no reason why he should not be appointed if worthy of it, and no reason why he should be if unworthy of it. The Buffalo Times states a great truth when it says, speaking of this case, that "if this appointment is made a certain class of politicians and newspapers will demand that the South be very good in the future and murmur not when offensive appointments of the Crum order are made." The Commoner opines that the grandson of Stonewall Jackson is willing to rest the case on his own merits, and not upon any idea that his appointment would be in the nature of a "concession" to the South. The South is not asking any "concessions;" it merely asks that the pestiferous class of politicians that seek to advance their self-interests by treating the South as a country set apart, be abated as public nuisances.