

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Mrs. Chadwick seems to have given several gentlemen a very adequate idea of "palsied finance."

The congressman who has heard no demands for tariff revision in his district should hasten to an aurist.

Reports of the Mrs. Chadwick financial transactions indicate that "frenzied finance" is not a question of sex.

Pension Commissioner Ware says he has never accepted money for his poetry, but Mr. Ware is not the only one.

The report that Senator Depew is to be retired is quite enough to provide an excuse for a little more anecdoting.

To every member of its large and growing family *The Commoner* wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The gentlemen who are opposed to Santa Claus have been politely but firmly compelled to seek retirement for a week or two.

Perhaps the president's silence on the tariff and reciprocity questions was intended as a rebuke to Governor-elect Douglas of Massachusetts.

Last week reference was made to two bills introduced in congress by Representative Burke Cockran. The bills are printed in full on another page.

Judge Steele of the Colorado supreme bench seems to be a man who would rather be right than hold his position by doing the political bidding of Peabody.

Good books always make acceptable Christmas presents. Read the advertisement of Mr. Bryan's new book, "Under Other Flags," elsewhere in this issue of *The Commoner*.

Leaking gas caused a terrible explosion in Columbus, O., recently. Experience doubtless has taught the people of Washington, D. C., to be very careful when congress is in session.

The Japs, who are declaring they will eat next Christmas dinner at Port Arthur, are invited to recall to mind that the Boers were going to eat Thanksgiving dinner in Ladysmith.

Some Ohio strikers have been arrested and imprisoned on the charge of having used dynamite to destroy property. Did any one ever go to jail for dynamiting a rival oil refinery?

Representative Hull introduced the "citizens' rifle practice bill" but admits that he is not enthusiastic in its favor and predicts that it will fail. This is strange, considering the fact that the bill carries an appropriation of a million dollars.

## The Commoner.

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Some one has asked why bankers do not spend more money, and the Washington Post suggests that it is probably because they have to have their money for such borrowers as Mrs. Chadwick.

Uncle Joe Cannon says "economy" will be the watchword of this congress and the next one. Uncle Joe is becoming mixed in his words. He doubtless means that "economy" will be a byword.

Senator Fairbanks insists that he favors reciprocity, but it must be republican. Republican reciprocity consists largely of getting a great deal by making promises, and then forgetting to keep the promises.

Those Missouri democrats who refused to vote on election day are beginning to realize more and more what they did to hurt Missouri as they read the names of republicans mentioned to succeed Senator Cockrell.

J. W. Friend of Pittsburg admits that he was bilked to the tune of several thousand dollars by Mrs. Chadwick. Mr. Friend's middle initial will have a hard struggle keeping itself before the people hereafter.

For explanations that do not explain, and for democracy that is not distinguishable from republicanism or plutocracy, the New York World is entitled to top of column, above and alongside, no other near and free notice elsewhere position.

Secretary Morton says "we want such a navy in size and style and sand that no other navy will ever desire an engagement with us." But suppose other nations are afflicted with the same hallucination; where is the building of navies to end?

The deficit last month was a little over \$4,000,000 and the demand for gold for export exhausted the bullion in the treasury. We shudder to think what the g. o. p. organs would say about this if a democrat happened to be occupying the White house.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, speaking of the republican victory in Missouri, says the republicans will double their majority "if they act wisely." If that is the only show the g. o. p. has to carry Missouri next time the democrats are not going to worry much.

There is a great deal of talk about the president urging a revision of the tariff, but so far nothing has come of it. The president believes in a strenuous life, but he probably does not want anything quite so strenuous as a fight with the tariff barons of his party.

It is all very clear now why there will be no tariff revision for at least three years to come. Speaker Cannon says it would be unwise to hold a special session for the purpose of revising the tariff, and he is quite sure it would be unwise to waste the time of the regular session in discussing tariff revision.

Colonel Greene of New York talked very loud about what he would do to Thomas Lawson when he met that gentleman. He met him, and the meeting was as quiet as a prayer meeting. This reminds one of Josh Billings' statement that "most eny man kan whip a elephant when there ain't no elephants arownd."

The New York World declares that the failure of the St. Louis convention to unequivocally endorse the gold standard is responsible for Judge Parker's overwhelming defeat. Just because Mr. Pulitzer calls his paper "The World," is no sign he can see across Manhattan island. The World is merely making a parade of its own ignorance of popular sentiment.

Those eminent republican congressmen who are endeavoring to reduce the south's representation in congress because of the small number of votes cast in many southern districts, should be careful. Especially is this true of the republican congressmen from the districts included in the corporate limits of the city of Philadelphia. Some curious southern congressman might take a notion to investigate the causes of such a large vote in the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, with a pop-

ulation scarcely more than one-third that of New York City, has a voting list of nearly 100,000 more than the city on Manhattan Island. This strange state of affairs may be investigated if strenuous protectionists like Representative Morrell of Pennsylvania insist on pushing the Morrell bill to apportion representation in congress according to the number of votes cast, rather than according to population.

People who complain of a growing disrespect for the courts might learn why the courts are not respected as of yore by keeping in touch with court decisions. In a Hartford, Conn., court two sentences were imposed on the same day, and they deserve attention. An ex-judge, who embezzled trust funds to the amount of \$5,572 was sentenced to one year in jail. A man who had stolen a horse was sentenced to two years and six months in the state prison. This sort of things is so common that there is small wonder why men are not as respectful as they were towards the courts of the land.

Germany is considering the proposition of investing \$300,000,000 more in a larger navy and a larger army as an insurance against war. If the idea of Secretary of the Navy Morton is carried out in this country will have to spend not less than \$350,000,000 in order to have a "larger and better army and navy" than Germany's. Then Germany will have to make it \$400,000,000, which will call for at least \$450,000,000 for our land and sea forces. At this rate of progress, if the money of the people held out, there would not be enough room in the oceans to float the two navies, and the soldiers would be so thick that one couldn't see a mere civilian with a microscope.

Judge Steele of the Colorado supreme bench is well remembered because of his decision in the now celebrated Moyer case. It was to be expected that Judge Steele would have no part in the effort to seat Peabody by extra-judicial functions on the part of the Colorado supreme court, and the judge has met expectations. He does not mince his words, either, in declaring his opposition to the work now being done in Colorado in the effort to thwart the will of the people and retain Peabody in office. The court, without even opening the ballot box or having any knowledge whatever of its contents, forbid the Denver elections commission from opening and counting the returns from precinct 8 of the Seventh ward. The precinct itself is not an important one, but the decision in this particular case is a precedent for future action that will disfranchise thousands of honest voters and enable the corporations to retain Peabody in the executive chair. Judge Steele dissents in vigorous language from the decision of the majority of the court. When Judge Gabbert finished reading the opinion Judge Steele exclaimed: "The conclusion of the court was handed to me only last night at 5 o'clock. I have, therefore, had no time to prepare a dissenting opinion, but I DISSENT FROM THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT BECAUSE IT IS UNWARRANTED, IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT AND IS DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE LAW." There is no difficulty in understanding the phraseology of that brief opinion.

### Inviting War

The St. Joseph News and Press calls attention to the following editorial which appeared in the New York Sun some twelve years ago:

If we could manage to pick a fight with some nation that would not be contemptible as an antagonist, the material benefit to the country would be enormous. Patriotic feeling would be promoted, the commercial spirit would no longer be so distinctly in the ascendant, foreign immigrants would be entirely absorbed by fighting with a common enemy. The only things against war are that we can not find an enemy big enough for us, willing to fight, and that there would be a big bill to pay, including pensions.

This is a view of war that is likely to grow with a large navy. Those who lean to great armaments are inclined to measure patriotism by service upon the battlefield, while those who believe in peace measure patriotism by a rule that gives credit for helpful service in behalf of one's country and one's fellows.