

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The trouble seems to be that the trusts learned "jlu-jitsu" first.

There were 1,600 postoffice robberies last year—from the outside.

It seems less painful now that we can refer to it as the "defeat of last year."

The fear that "Gas" Addicks will break into the magazines is not well founded.

Very naturally Mr. James J. Hill favors a continuance of government regulation by the railroads.

We trust that Dr. Lyman Abbott is not the advance agent of a campaign of "frenzied theology."

Before visiting the south to show his friendship President Roosevelt administered the fourth dose of Crum.

Of course, if Wall street gets to shooting over the Lawson expose it will have to be chronicled as a naval battle.

Up to date the trusts have not been very badly frightened by rattling shackles under their business office windows.

It must be remembered that a great many western blizzards rage fiercest in the headlines of the eastern newspapers.

It may be that in striving so hard to forget Thomas W. Lawson Mr. Rockefeller did not have time to remember Chicago University.

Mr. Henry H. Rogers continues to worry a great deal more over the memory of the dead than he does over the welfare of the living.

A Pennsylvania judge has decided that stealing a kiss is grand larceny, and there are those who will admit that if it is worth stealing it is.

After their experience with Mrs. Chadwick those bankers are in a position to sympathize with the people who invested their savings in steel common.

A lot of republican papers that are commending Commissioner Garfield's plans threw frenzied fits of horror when the same plans were submitted by democrats.

The trusts view with equanimity the spectacle of Uncle Sam policing the South American republics. It gives more opportunity for working both sides of the home street.

The Cincinnati Enquirer called it its "valedictory" as a democratic organ. The Enquirer must have mislaid its dictionary. "Reminiscence" would have been a better word.

General Miles has declined to draw two salaries, one as a retired lieutenant general and the other as adjutant general of Massachusetts. General Miles is a democrat.

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Just about the time we hoped the president would come down on the beef trust he switched off on the railroad question. Did he run up against a beef trust block signal?

The New York corporations decided upon a truce in the senatorial fight until after the Christmas holidays. The truce was possible because of the indifference of the voters.

When it becomes universally known that only ten states cast more prohibition votes than Kentucky Colonel Watterson will probably decide to make France his permanent residence.

J. Pierpont Morgan has just paid \$6,000 for the oldest piano in existence. But he does not intend using it to make music for legislators to dance to. He has better instruments.

The king of Servia has just signed a bill repealing the freedom of the press. Peter will come much nearer muzzling the press, too, than Governor Pennypacker did to shackling the cartoonists.

Mr. Rockefeller failed to make the expected gift of \$2,000,000 to Chicago university. It may be that Mr. Rockefeller has encountered competition in the oil business in some little town.

"You can't go behind the returns" was a republican shibboleth a few years ago, but that was when going behind the returns meant defeat for the g. o. p. It's different in Colorado right now.

Governor General Wright reports that "troops were in the field most of the year quelling uprising." Isn't that rather queer news from a country thoroughly pacified and satisfied with American rule?

The Chicago Chronicle is not happy even now. It has discovered some signs of "populism" in the republican party. The first thing we know the Chronicle will be flocking by itself, grand, gloomy, peculiar, and alone.

The bank commissioner of Iowa seems to have been the premium "standpatter" during 1904. A score of bank failures, a loss to depositors of upwards of \$12,000,000 and two or three suicides because of them, was the record.

We talk a great deal about the world's advancement, but can you find in history a year that equals the record of 1904 for loss of life in battle and because of accidents that might have been avoided by ordinary precaution?

A man who was locked up in a refrigerator car imagined that he was freezing to death, and actually died, although the car was not iced. Such an imagination is equalled only by those who imagine that the trusts are frightened by all this administration anti-trust talk.

The Saturday Evening Post says that there is to be a new deal in politics. It predicts a realignment and declares that "there is a great body of republicans who really belong on the democratic side, and a smaller, but still large number of democrats who ought to be republicans." Let the exchange take place—the sooner the better. Harmony in belief and in purpose is the only basis of co-operation in politics.

The Lexington Gazette, one of the staunchest of the democratic newspapers of Kentucky, quotes with approval the statement of Hon. Norman E. Mack of the Buffalo Times to the effect that the election means the "re-adoption of most of the basic principles of the party as enunciated in the platforms of 1896 and 1900." The principles of those platforms are sound, and departure from them is neither right nor expedient.

A public report of more than ordinary interest was recently given out, but somehow or other the administration organs seem to have overlooked it, either as a news feature or as a mere literary production. The report was submitted by New York charity officials, and the statistics showed an increase of 40 per cent in the number of unemployed who are forced to seek assistance over the number one year ago. Ten years ago the closing down of a little shop and the discharge of a half-dozen employes was enough to throw the average republican organ into a spasm. Their nerves have grown stronger lately—or their eyes much weaker.

President Eliot of Harvard announces his opposition to the arbitration of labor disputes, asserting that he "has yet to see when arbitration has successfully accomplished its purpose." The trouble with President Eliot is that he will not see what he so evidently does not want to see. He is opposed to labor unions and can therefore see no right which labor has to demand arbitration. It is not expected that arbitration of labor disputes will settle every point at issue, or that it will satisfy all parties. But it is expected that it will be far better than strikes and lock-outs.

### He May Expect Too Much

The Minden (Neb.) Courier calls attention to a matter that shows the advantages to the people of an elected judiciary. An Axtell, Neb., man sued in the state courts for \$30 overcharge by a railroad company for hauling ice, the company having charged him that much more for a short haul than it charged another man for a long haul. The case was taken from the district to the state supreme court, and the plaintiff won in both instances. Recently a federal judge decided that the railroads had a right to charge more for hauling sugar from San Francisco to Kearney than it did for hauling sugar from San Francisco to Omaha, although Omaha is 200 miles further from San Francisco than Kearney. The Axtell man tried his case before judges elected by the people. The sugar case was tried before a judge appointed for political reasons.

### Wherein The Difference Lies

Several states will soon have battleships named after them afloat upon the waters of the ocean, and the newspapers of these states are discussing ways and means of making some public recognition of the honor thus conferred upon them. A silver service seems to be the accepted idea, but the presentation of such a gift is open to objections. A silver service will in no wise benefit the majority of those aboard a battleship. The stokers, the gunners, the marines and the machinists will never have an opportunity to use it, and it will be serviceable only to the chief officers. The "Jackies" are entitled to something more than the sight of shining silver, and *The Commoner* suggests, not as the originator of the idea, that the gift take the form of a library. That may be used by all aboard the battleship and will be of real service to everybody.

### Something of Practical Utility

A resident of Havana, Cuba, while gladly admitting that United States occupancy of the island resulted in the almost total obliteration of yellow fever, says that when a Cuban starts for the states, especially New York, he is warned to be careful about contracting pneumonia. "We fear pneumonia when in the states much more than we ever feared yellow fever when in Cuba," he said. Pneumonia claims its victims by the hundreds of thousands every year, yet we hear much less about it than we used to hear about yellow fever. Perhaps we have become so accustomed to the devastations of pneumonia that we give it little attention. But the medical profession is striving earnestly to combat it, and in view of the profession's success in combatting other and once dreaded diseases it is not too much to hope that in due time the disease will have lost its force.

The discouraging report comes that the Guatemalan ant is a dismal failure as a destroyer of the boll weevil, and as a result the southern cotton growers are in despair. The ant promised to do wonders along the line of putting the boll weevil out of business, and for a time actually did seem to try. But it seems that in this case, as in others, "familiarity bred contempt," and now the ant and the boll weevil lie down side by side in the most friendly fashion. It is now claimed that the only remedy is to secure an early maturing cotton plant. If the cotton can be harvested about the middle of October, before the boll weevil gets in its deadly work, and the plant left in the field speedily destroyed, it is believed that the pest will succumb to starvation. Scientists are now striving to secure the early cotton plant, and in the meantime are also striving to concoct some kind of pleasant tasting food that will fatally disagree with the boll weevil's digestion.

### The Ant That Became A Sluggard