

The Commoner.

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Some of the battle-scarred veterans in the ranks of the Missouri republicans suspect that Senator-elect Neidringhaus is really "the mysterious stranger."

A Milford, Kan., reader of *The Commoner* asks where William George Gordon's "Power of Truth" can be obtained. Can any *Commoner* reader furnish this information?

Young Mr. Rockefeller's Bible class might profitably spend one session discussing the moral aspects of the "stock washing" operations with which some of the officials of his father's bank have been connected.

The war debt of the civilized countries of the world amounts to \$1,000 per family, and is growing larger all the time. If the people who bring on wars had to fight them there would be longer periods of perfect peace.

President Roosevelt has written much about the "strenuous life," but if he is in earnest in his fight for the regulation of interstate commerce rates he is likely to learn more about strenuousness than he has ever known before.

Press reports announce that some of the republicans in congress are in favor of reducing the appropriations for the navy in order to bring expenditures within the receipts. Another proof that the "uses of adversity" are sometimes "sweet."

The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, wrong as usual, says the democrats "object to the courts taking hold of the Colorado election." Democrats merely object to the court being made an annex to the republican corporation campaign committee.

We always wonder how the great Russian people can patiently submit to the arbitrary rule of one man, until we happen to think of how Messrs. Rockefeller and Rogers run things in this country. Then we cease wondering about the Russians.

It was considerate of the Missouri republicans to select as United States senator a man who had never done the democrats any political harm. The old time fighting republicans of that state will be allowed to attend the inauguration of the president.

Mr. Hay having announced that this republic would exercise police duty over the republics of South America, perhaps it would not be out of place to call the policeman's attention to a number of notorious cases of robbery going on in this country.

The *Deseret Evening News*, official organ of the Mormon church, asks a correspondent if he is not aware that "religion and politics are always kept widely apart in this country." The *Deseret Evening News* must be trying to break into the humorous press department.

To state legislators: Examine the records and learn how the amount paid out annually by the fire and life insurance companies doing business in your state compares with the amount collected by them annually for premiums and then calcu-

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late the saving to your people and your state if the state furnished fire and life insurance to its citizens at actual cost.

"Wash stock" is the latest addition to our language. It means a snide transaction in stock calculated to deceive innocent investors as to the real value of the stock in question. Talk about "shackling cunning" and revising the tariff is a sample of republican "wash stock."

A Missouri republican exchange wants the republican legislature of that state to elect a senator whose name will be greeted by the country with "well done." Missouri will be "well done" before the democracy takes charge again, just as it was "well done" when the republicans had charge about a generation ago.

Several administration organs are waxing sarcastic at the expense of President Castro of Venezuela because he became angry at his supreme court and "fired" the whole tribunal. They can not reconcile that sort of thing with a republic. But perhaps the supreme court was trying to steal a state administration.

Referring to Mr. Lawson's story that \$5,000,000 was raised among the corporations a week before the election in 1896 to make sure the defeat of Mr. Bryan, the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* says: "There is a chance, however, that if the sum was raised it was not used corruptly." The *Globe-Democrat* is either a great humorist or the prize optimist.

The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, seeking to explain the raising of a five million dollar campaign fund a week before election day in 1896, says that political campaigns cost money. That particular campaign cost the beneficiaries of the G. O. P. a lot of money, but they have since realized a handsome and expected profit on their investment.

Perhaps Sir Howard Vincent, M. P., who objects to the third verse of "Star Spangled Banner," will consent to arbitration. If he will consent to let it stand we'll agree to let Mr. Reid wear "knickerbockers" when he goes to represent this republic at the court of St. James. But this is the only basis of compromise that we will accept.

Gov. Cummins of Iowa presented some excellent suggestions at the Chicago Press club banquet. He discussed "The Editorial Page" and urged the members of the club "to make the truth known at any and every cost." On the same occasion Col. Geo. Harvey of Harper's Weekly made a plea for the freedom of the press, and ex-Governor Peck discussed "The Simple Life."

Someone has reported Mr. Bryan as saying that President Roosevelt is or would prove himself to be "the greatest president the country has ever had." It ought not to be necessary to deny such a statement, but unfriendly papers have assumed it true and made it the basis of editorials. Mr. Bryan has said nothing that would bear such a construction; he has made no comparisons between President Roosevelt and former presidents. It is too soon yet to determine what kind of a president the present occupant of the white house is going to be. He has shown some symptoms of reform since the election, and Mr. Bryan has commended such of the president's recommendations as he believes to be good, and he will support him in every good move that he makes, but he is not indulging in comparisons.

Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske is heading a crusade having for its object the more humane treatment of live stock in transportation. Certainly there is vast room for improvement in the methods now in vogue, and Mrs. Fiske is doing good work along this line. But it will strike the casual observer that Mrs. Fiske, who lives in New York city, could find more important and humane reforms much nearer home than the cattle ranges of the west. There is more abject misery and physical suffering in the tenement quarters of Gotham than there is on the cattle ranges of the west.

The first thing after a republican is elected to the senate from Missouri is a move to investigate charges of corruption in the transaction. Thomas Neidringhaus, the senator-elect, is a wealthy man who is engaged in the enameled ware and stamping business, which is alleged to be virtually a

trust in these lines of business. Charges of corruption are rife and an attempt is being made to have the whole matter sifted to the bottom. The more they view the results the more Missouri democrats regret that they failed to go to the polls on election day. But the result in Missouri will have one good effect—it means a democratic majority close to the 100,000 mark at the next general election in that state.

Whatever is said about the tariff, it must be admitted that the appraisers earn their wages by the great display of wisdom they are daily called upon to make. After much cogitation, study and investigation the appraisers have decided that the yolks of eggs must be taxed 25 per cent, while the whites of eggs must be taxed only 20 per cent. Unfortunately for the country the appraisers do not explain the difference of 5 per cent. Having decided on the yolk and the white separately, the appraisers solemnly decided that when the white and the yolk are imported in the same shell, the rate of duty is 5 cents per dozen. Certainly such erudition is deserving of all the reward offered.

Labor unions throughout the country are asking the legislatures of the various states to enact laws making it compulsory to brand convict made goods with the words "convict made." There is no good reason why the request should not be granted, and many reasons why it should be. Congress was quick to come to the aid of the dairy industry and cripple the oleomargarine industry, and certainly the free laborers of the country are as much entitled to protection against convict made goods as the dairymen were to protection against the competition of the oleo manufacturers. If people want to buy convict made goods because of their cheapness, well and good; but people who do not want convict made goods at any price are entitled to have some distinguishing mark that will enable them to avoid those goods.

Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania is again after the newspapers. Having failed in his efforts to subdue the cartoonists, he has taken a new tack. He proposes to authorize suits by the attorney general to suppress newspapers that are guilty of "habitual falsehood, defamation and scandal so as to constitute a public nuisance." Every crook, bribe giver, bribe taker, corruptionist and lover of darkness would doubtless give cheerful assistance to Governor Pennypacker in securing the enactment of such a law. Then they could make sure of securing the services of an attorney general, after which any newspaper that dared to denounce the criminals could be annoyed beyond endurance. Why is Governor Pennypacker so wonderfully agitated about the newspapers? Is it possible that he is stung to the quick by their criticisms? Or is it possible that he is unwilling to have the truth told? No honest man need fear injury from falsehood, but dishonest men fear publicity. We fear that Governor Pennypacker will have to expatriate himself and settle in Russia before he will find newspaper conditions to suit him.

If reward is to be measured by service, then Luther Burbank of California deserves more at the hands of his fellows than any martial hero or captain of industry. Mr. Burbank is a "wizard of horticulture." He experimented with potatoes with the result that the potato industry has been revolutionized. He turned his attention to plums, and produced a finer flavored and larger fruit than any yet grown in America. South Africa is dotted with orchards of "Burbank plums." Now he has perfected a prune so large that it makes the average prune look like a dried raspberry, and so sweet that it needs no sugar when prepared for the table. He has grown a thornless raspberry and now he has grown a thornless cactus that bids fair to restore the desert places and make them habitable for man and beast. Luther Burbank has added millions to the productive value of orchards and vineyards, and has done so without shedding of blood or doing violence to any man. Is not such a man more worthy of homage than martial heroes or "captains of finance" who profit by special legislation?

Could Find Work Nearer Home

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Already Hints Of Corruption

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