

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

It appears that the "Mysterious Stranger" allowed himself to become too well known in Missouri.

Ex-Governor Peabody's handwriting experts seem to have exhausted their expertness in their affirmations.

Reports from St. Petersburg and Port Arthur indicate that Russia kept her most expert marksmen at home.

Senator Aldrich is going to Europe for a short rest, but will be careful to carry Rhode Island along in his watch charm.

Each succeeding day's session of the Missouri legislature adds a few more to Missouri's democratic majority at the next election.

As a strike breaker General Sherman Bell is not in it with the Grand Duke Sergius. But Bell did not have quite the same opportunities.

The Philadelphia minister who admitted that he "preferred noll to politics" has evidently been making a study of the Philadelphia brand.

A New York man was arrested and fined \$25 for giving his horse a pint of whisky. They are awfully careful of their horses in New York city.

The supreme court having skillfully performed the preliminaries, will Attorney General Moody now whet up his skinning knife and set to work on the beef trust?

"The beef packers are reticent," says a news item in a daily exchange. They may not be doing much talking, but doubtless they are keeping up a lot of thinking.

President Roosevelt is looking for a man who will dig for \$100,000 a year. Men right here in Nebraska are often seen digging for \$10.50, the price of a ton of Mr. Baer's output.

The supreme court must be brought nearer to the people. A whole month has passed and the court's decision in the beef trust case has not yet reached the ears of the local butchers.

It is believed that the gentlemen at the head of the beef trust are not now quite so strenuous in their objections to the utterance of remarks calculated to destroy confidence in the courts.

The Japanese point with especial pride to their development of the surgical corps of the army. It must be admitted that the Japanese have very deftly amputated a number of Russian pretensions.

The Salt Lake Herald remarks that "there is no law that compels a man to depend on his muscle in this country." But there are numerous laws compelling muscle to pay tribute to arrogant and indolent wealth.

The Houston Post says: "The country would be better off if the president would pay more attention to building up our commerce instead of our commercial destroyers." The Post's point seems to be well taken.

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Editor Metcalfe of Life, New York, has been barred from forty-three theaters because of his theatrical criticisms. Mr. Metcalfe stoutly maintains that he has told nothing but the truth, and if he is correct the reason for the bar is apparent.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon declined to attend a banquet because the supreme court judges were given precedence over the speaker of the house. But "Uncle Joe" may regain his lost place by beating the supreme court in a war against the beef trust.

A Kansas congressman defends the tariff-fed manufacturers for selling abroad cheaper than at home on the ground that they are "disposing of old stuff." If the Kansas republicans will only move to some foreign country they will get the benefit of the tariff.

Walter Wellman said he would if Count Cassini dared him to. Count Cassini dared him to, and Mr. Wellman said that he would have to decline, owing to after considerations. This should be set down as one of the most important Russian victories yet pulled off.

A cursory glance at some republican exchanges leads **The Commoner** to believe that a lot of republican leaders who have always held that the government had no right to regulate freight rates are now bitterly opposed to freight rate regulation because Mr. Bryan advocates it.

Kicked out of the republican national convention—elected governor on a republican ticket and then chosen for the United States senate by nearly a three-quarters vote in a republican legislature—this is quite a record for eight months, but La Follette has made just such a record.

The governor of New Jersey assumes that his constituents have the same low standard of morality that he has when he tells them that it is better to license trusts to prey on the rest of the country than to tax themselves to raise the revenue necessary to carry on their state government.

Congressman Burleson of Texas put to the republican side the question: "Are you with the president or with the railroads in this fight for the regulation of freight rates?" Owing to the fact that most of the republican members are trying to be with both, the answer was not audible.

The Grand Rapids Post punctures a hypocritical pretense when it remarks that there are a great many widows and orphans with stacks of railroad stock who never receive any pity save when it is proposed to enact some railroad legislation that does not meet with the approval of the railroad managers.

The New York Sun is about to read Hon. John Sharp Williams out of the democratic party because he declares that the regulation of railroad rates is a democratic principle. But Mr. Williams is right, and the democrats will not run away from the principle merely because the president chooses to endorse it.

Mr. Dennis Donahue has now perpetrated four installments of his "Lawson Expose," but has utterly failed to show that what Lawson has said about the "system" is untrue. Mr. Donahue is a shining example of the truth of the old saying that "language was invented for the purpose of concealing thoughts."

The New York Sun seems to resent Governor Folk's determination to drive the lobbyists out of Jefferson City and says: "Would it not be better to give the crooked lobbyist plenty of rope and let him hang himself?" The Sun always keeps a supply of this kind of rope on hand and stands ready to cut any lobbyists down who tries to hang himself.

The state that has one senator representing the express companies and another senator representing the railroads, certainly has a right to demand representation of public interests. But the state will not secure such representation until the people of that state quit voting at the dictates of corporation bosses.

The administration organs that all along have insisted that there was no grafting in the P. O. D. are now pointing to Machen et al as evidence that the grafting so rampant in the P. O. D. will be sternly put down by the administration. The route around Robin Hood's barn is a straight-away track compared to the logic of the administration organs.

The monthly magazine "How to Make Money," has failed. The Wall street crowd already know how, and the rest of us are so busy making a living that we didn't have time to learn.

Some of the financiers are complaining that there has been a fall in the purchasing power of gold. This is certainly astonishing information from such a source, considering that it is not long since these same financiers were asserting that gold was absolutely unchangeable in value. Can it be possible that the financiers are learning that more money means cheaper dollars?

In refreshing contrast to Governor Pennypacker's assaults on the press are the words of commendation for the newspaper reporters spoken by retiring Governor Aycock of South Carolina. Governor Aycock paid the newspaper correspondents a high compliment, saying that they had always been his friends, and had helped to make the administration a success. "I have always trusted them fully," said Governor Aycock, "and they never betrayed the trust." This is also a refreshing contrast to the eminent public gentlemen who find that their quoted utterances do not meet with popular approval, and then attempt to hedge by the old and stereotyped claim that "the reporters misquoted me."

Demurrage charges are familiar to all shippers of goods. It is simply a charge made for holding a car out of service after a specified time from the date of its delivery to the consignee. The railroads claim that the demurrage charges are necessary in order to prevent cars from being unnecessarily held out of service. A Nebraska legislator of a logical turn of mind has approached this plan from a new direction and introduced a bill requiring railways to pay a fine for every day a shipper is kept waiting for a car after he has ordered it. Railroads have found that one of the easiest ways to discourage competition is to put up the plea that they can not furnish cars. In this way favored shippers are given an advantage and the elevator and cattle trusts are enabled to contribute largely to the unearned receipts. If the proposed Nebraska law becomes effective the railroads will have to frame up some other plan. The Sioux City Journal, speaking of the bill says that "the railroads may find it easier to defeat the bill than to dodge the logic."

France, with an area very small when compared with that of the United States, keeps constantly employed 6,000 men whose duty it is to maintain the French forests. We do it differently over here. We employ a few scientists and laborers to reforest spots laid bare by the woodman's axe, and at the same time pay a huge bonus to a large army of men engaged in destroying the forests. This army denudes more land in a day than the government reforestation department can reclaim in a year. This huge bonus on forest destruction is paid in the guise of a protective tariff on lumber and wood pulp. Turn it whichever way you will, the tariff on lumber and wood pulp is nothing more nor less than a premium paid to a favored few for their work of destroying American forests.

In its issue of January 6 **The Commoner** printed an editorial under the title of "A Worthy Charity" and referring to the National Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs. A subscriber who is a union printer enters an objection to the use of the word "charity" in this connection. This subscriber says: "The home is in no way a charitable institution, using the word 'charity' in its commonly accepted definition. The union printers at the home are the guests of an institution which they have themselves helped to build and maintain. They have paid for it and have a proprietary interest therein, therefore they can not rightfully be classed as the recipients of charity." From this subscriber's view of "charity" his point is well taken. But in the new version of the good book the word "charity" appears as "love," and from this standpoint **The Commoner's** printer friend certainly will not take exception to the designation. Certainly the union printers of the country have shown a commendable love for and pride in their craft, and the beautiful home—a splendid word in any case and especially so in this—at Colorado Springs, is a magnificent monument to the fraternity and mutual helpfulness that is the real basis of genuine labor unionism.

**Complimented
The Newspaper
Men**

**From
The Other
Viewpoint**

**Let us Learn
a Lesson
From France**

**The
Printers'
Home**