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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Missouri now has but one senator and a republican legislative majority.

What seems to be most needed in official circles is a self-burning letter.

Judge Swayne's chief defense seems to have been that he was a republican.

Wanted—A senate chosen by the people and responsible to the will of the people.

Mr. Neidringhaus is in doubt whether he contributed too little or talked too much.

Already there are signs that the canal management needs some strenuous sanitation.

The Panama spade is in danger of growing rusty because of too prolonged swinging of the big stick.

The inaugural ceremonies were quite in keeping with the imperialistic and military tendencies of the age.

The indications are that the Illinois legislature is not going to take any chances by allowing Mr. Comerford to return.

Dr. Osler will have difficulty in persuading Kuropatkin that Nogi is useless because he has passed the age of 40 years.

Well, the senate has declared in the Swayne case that its standard of official morality is not as high as the standard fixed by the house.

Arizona might retort that she prefers to wait until the company is purified by the regeneration of Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Delaware.

Mr. Rockefeller has a new sixty-horse power automobile. Being cognizant of his own product Mr. Rockefeller's machine is not run by gasoline power.

A large majority of Illinois' voters seem to be of the opinion that the legislature expelled Mr. Comerford just in time—to save a majority of the legislators.

The big navy argument, carried to its logical conclusion, is that every man should carry a revolver for the purpose of compelling due respect for law and order.

The Japanese are preparing to move on Da Pass. State legislators in this country could give the Japanese some valuable pointers on capturing something better—annual passes.

If the president will focus public attention on the amendment providing for the direct election of United States senators he may secure this reform and that will open the way to other reforms.

The senators who daily act upon questions in which they themselves have large pecuniary interests very naturally felt that Judge Swayne had done nothing improper in deciding a case where his wife had an interest.

## The Commoner.

Regulating rates, investigating the trusts, buying a railroad, establishing an oil refinery! Goodness, how democratic—how populist—the republicans are!

Perhaps administration dislike for Governor Vardamann is based on the fact that he is abolishing lynch law, thus depriving administration organs of their chief source of denunciation of the southern democracy.

Several California legislators have been expelled for accepting bribes. In view of what most legislatures fail to do for the people the expulsion is doubtless looked upon by the expelled members as a sort of reward.

"It is now reported," says the Chicago Record-Herald, "that Mr. Bryan owns valuable oil lands." The report is as untrue as the Record-Herald's claim to be an independent newspaper, and Mr. Bryan owns no oil lands.

It will be remembered that Banker Eckles and Lawyer Beck, who have been defending the Standard Oil company in its controversy with Lawson, left the democratic party in 1896 because of the party's repudiation of Wall street control.

President Wilson is quoted as saying: "We can not abolish the trusts; we must moralize them." The danger seems to be that the trusts will immortalize the presidents of our big trust-fed colleges before the moralizing process reaches the trusts.

Mr. Armour is now threatening to go out of the private car business. Mr. Armour is not making any threats about going out of the meat trust business, but he is going, just the same. If not now, then a little later when something besides injunctions are let loose at him.

Several republican organs that rejoice over the alleged fact that the supreme court's beef trust decision cuts the ground from under government by injunction, are the same organs that denounced as anarchistic the democratic demand for a cessation of government by injunction.

The government has guaranteed the interest on \$30,000,000 of bonds issued for railroad building purposes in the Philippine islands. In view of the wonderful possibilities which we have heard so much about, the exploiters show a strange reluctance to take their chances.

The esteemed Boston Herald mourns because P. T. Barnum's autograph recently brought more than that of Henry Clay. But the Herald should not repine. We opine that there are circumstances under which the autograph of J. Pierpont Morgan would be worth much more than that of William Shakespeare.

Good for little Delaware! She has done nobly in again defeating Addicks. Her big neighbor, New York, has not done so well. Both Platt and Depew—one representing the express companies and the other the railroads—are as unfit as Addicks and far less independent than he would be.

The judge who would accept the present of a horse from a man on trial before him on the charge of horse stealing, would be impeached. Yet there are judges who carry railroad passes in their pockets and sit as judges in cases wherein a railroad giving one of the passes is accused of violation of the law.

The president of the Provident Life & Trust company in his annual report comments on the increased production of gold and predicts an era of "inflation." The financiers seem to be much more afraid of falling dollars than of falling pieces. Will they have learned at last that the quantitative theory of money is correct and that more money means cheaper dollars?

Governor Folk has sent a message to the legislature recommending the repeal of the law that licenses pool selling. He is right. The evil of gambling is not in gambling to excess but in gambling at all. Where the act itself is morally wrong the government can not afford to tolerate it, no matter what share is offered for a license. This is the ground on which the prize fights, lotteries and similar immoral things are prohibited and the reasoning is sound.

The president insisted on appointing a negro to the position of collector of the port of Charleston, South Carolina, despite the protest of the people who most patronize that office. The president based his persistency on the ground that he would not "close the door of hope" to the black man. But it is noted that he has appointed white men to the positions of collectors of the ports of the Black Republic. Why were these "doors of hope" in the Black Republic slammed in the face of the black man?

### Door of Hope Slams Shut

The practice of appointing retired senators to some lucrative office is not in the best of taste, especially when the retirement of a senator was a direct issue, as was the case with Senator Quarles in Wisconsin. Senator Quarles was discredited and retired by the voters of his state, and his appointment to the federal bench for the eastern district of Wisconsin is an uncalled-for slap at the voters of that state. Certainly if Senator Quarles was not wanted as a senator he was not wanted as a judge, both officers being servants of the people. Had he been dependent upon election for a seat on the bench in Wisconsin, does the president imagine for a moment that he would have been willing to accept the issue and make the race?

### Caring For The Retired Senators

The growth of the gambling spirit is emphasized by the discovery that a New York state preparatory school's students have been occupying handsome quarters for the purpose of gambling, and that a student recently won \$85 in an afternoon with loaded dice. Not until the students discovered the cheat did they awaken to a realization of the evils of gambling, and the matter was called to the attention of the faculty. An investigation is now in progress. The desire to get something for nothing is not the only reason for gambling. The excitement, the risk, and the element of chance all combine to make it dangerous to society and leads to moral degradation. A vast majority of defalcations may be traced to the gambling table. Parents would do well to examine carefully into the environment of a school before sending their boys away from home to be educated.

### Growth of The Gambling Evil

That somebody was responsible for the disaster to the steamer General Slocum, whereby 1,000 lives were lost, is beyond dispute. But responsibility has not been fixed, and no one has been punished. Public clamor has subsided, as it always does, and will not again be aroused to a similar height until a similar holocaust takes place. By the collapse of a gallery in a New York church ten lives were lost and more than one hundred people seriously injured. Somebody is responsible. New York has building inspection laws, but what of it? There are also steamboat inspection laws, but the General Slocum was destroyed just the same. Our growing disregard of the safety of life and limb should be checked without further delay. When men responsible for such disasters are held to strict account there will be fewer disasters in which human life pays the penalty of official carelessness.

### Let the Responsibility Be Fixed

The Nebraska Democratic Editorial association will meet at Lincoln on March 22, and an interesting and instructive program has been prepared. This association has been in existence almost four years, and its annual meetings are inspirations to the exponents of democracy who meet in consultation. The interchange of views, the discussion of ways and means to better present the principles of democracy, and the help that comes from association, are valuable to its members. The democratic press of Nebraska, while not large numerically, stands in the forefront of the democratic press of the nation, and Nebraska's democratic editors have never been found wanting when champions of genuine democracy were called for. At the coming session of the association Mr. Louis F. Post, editor of the Chicago Public, will deliver an address on "Democratic Ideals in American Journalism," an announcement that will be pleasing to all democrats who may be able to visit the capital city and attend the meetings of the association. It would be well if the democratic editors of every state organized an association similar to that perfected by their Nebraska comrades.

### Nebraska's Democratic Editors