

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

One Year	\$1.00	Three Months	50c
Six Months	50c	Single Copy	5c
In Clubs of 5 or more, per year	75c	Sample Copies Free.	
		Foreign Postage 52c Extra.	

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The grand dukes seem to have engineered some grand flukes.

Russian evacuation of Manchuria seems to be well under way at last.

Organize now! Battles are seldom won without preparation. See the primary pledge elsewhere.

The swinging of the "big spade" would just now please more people than the swinging of the "big stick."

Are the able administration editors willing to take Mr. Garfield's report on the paper trust without flinching?

"This is the age of clamor, not of thought," says Mr. James Eckles. Mr. Eckles persists in proving it, too.

Philadelphians are now praying for their city government, but it looks like an unfair test of the efficacy of prayer.

Having found his statements unpopular Dr. Osler has followed precedent and declared that he was "misquoted."

The amount of crepe displayed at the death of the Fifty-eighth congress would not make a pair of pajamas for a goat.

The way the Russians are losing passes would seem to indicate that the Russian generals have been members of legislatures.

General Kuropatkin can now understand how an anti-trust bill feels after it has become acquainted with the Oyamas of the senate.

"We will send another army," says the grand duke, Vladimir. Note the language. Vladimir does not say, "We will take another army."

The Equitable has the center of the stage at this time, but some of the other big life insurance companies are being exploited just as shamelessly.

The fact that they did not get it will hardly suffice. The congressmen who voted for the mileage grab will have to frame up some other excuse.

Most of the grand dukes who howl so loudly for a continuance of the war are taking measures to remain right where they were when the war began.

President Wilson of Princeton says the proper way to deal with the trusts is to moralize them. We know a way to clean charcoal, too—just wash it white.

Be it understood that no bills are good as against the small republics unless the senate's "O. K." appears just under the president's endorsement.

Senator Hemenway has figured out a nice surplus for next year. The trouble is that the senator's figures and the treasury facts do not jibe worth a cent.

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The Panama canal engineers are unanimously in favor of building the canal on the level. If it is built "on the level" it will be a record-breaker among big government undertakings.

The Review of Reviews comes out strong in favor of the election of senators by direct vote of the people. One by one, the planks of the democratic platform are being vindicated.

Disclosures of bribery and corruption in the Philippine elections is merely an indication that we have sent over a wrong lot of teachers to instruct the Filipinos in self-government.

James M. Beck says that "the one joy of man in this day and age is to toil for money." Had he been present at the time doubtless Mr. Beck would have rebuked Moses for destroying the golden calf.

The Garfield report may have to be amended so as to show that the profits of the beef packers are large enough to enable them to go to Europe whenever they are needed as witnesses in this country.

A Cuban exchange reports that the Cuban congress has adjourned and that "practically all important legislation goes over until the next session." What an imitative lot those Cubans are, to be sure.

The mail carrying contract graft should be investigated, but not by some one who will joyfully and readily swallow the figures carefully cooked up by the eminent railroad men who profit by the graft.

So young Mr. Hyde has decided to allow the policy holders to elect a majority of the directors of the Equitable. Well, he is not likely to celebrate the surrender by another one hundred thousand dollar dinner.

New York city's electric light trust has offered to make a reduction to the city of \$20 per arc light if the people will drop the subject of municipal ownership of lighting plants. The offer is a splendid argument for municipal ownership.

The Lewis & Clarke exposition, which opens at Portland on June 1, gives promise of being one of the most important expositions ever held in this country. It certainly celebrates one of the most important features of the republic's history.

Mr. Garfield says the meat trust has not made money. The cattle raisers have not made any money. The public has been compelled to pay an exorbitant price for meat. It is quite evident that Mr. Garfield overlooked something.

Attorney Charles Aldrich of the Chicago bar makes some charges against United States Judge Kohlsaat which, if sustained against an elective officer, would prevent promotion, but judges appointed for life are not held to the same strict accountability.

The president of an eastern college has appealed to men throughout the country to give their worn dress suits to his students. This college president has made a grave mistake. He should appeal on behalf of his students for overalls and jumpers.

Wisconsin railroads have stopped all improvements and extensions in order to force the people to abandon their fight for justice. The man who amputated his nose in order to spite his face is abundantly able to give the Wisconsin railroads some valuable pointers.

The legislator who accepts a railroad pass as a "courtesy" has no right to feel offended if a beef trust offers him free meat, a lighting trust offers him free light, or a coal trust offers him free coal—all as "courtesies." Directly or indirectly, the pass is a bribe.

The eastern railroad presidents are declaring that it would be dangerous to allow government officials to fix railroad rates, but they will not convince the Kansas oil producers, who have seen freight rates go down from \$78.34 per car to \$27.60, as a result of the recent maximum rate law.

The right of the people to have what they want in government is of no value until the people determine to enforce the right. The people of Pennsylvania could have protected themselves from the Standard Oil company and the Pennsylvania railroad years ago if they had had the courage to do so.

"The advocacy of a bill by W. J. Bryan," says the republican Milwaukee Sentinel, "ought to settle its fate with a republican legislature." The Commoner cheerfully admits that some republican legislatures are just about that intelligent and honest. A truly representative legislature, however, would consider the merits of the bill.

A member of the Nebraska legislature, in explaining his vote against a direct primary bill, said he opposed the direct primary because it would, in his opinion, have a tendency to destroy party harmony and party discipline, and therefore would be an injury to his party. The member in question is a republican. A legislator who would put party good above the public welfare is not the right kind of material out of which to manufacture lawmakers. The direct primary is opposed by every trust and corporation that seeks to secure benefits by corruption of legislatures and congresses.

There is a moral to be found in the history of the subway strike in New York city. The union to which the strikers belonged

A Union's Contract Must Be Maintained. was chartered by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and had a contract with the employers. This contract was broken by the employes, and the Brotherhood ordered the strikers back and revoked the union's charter when the order was disobeyed. The violation of the contract by the employes makes it more difficult for other unions to secure working agreements, and the loss of the strike points with renewed emphasis to the needs of an arbitration law that will prevent such a waste of time and money. Labor unions can not afford to violate contracts, any more than private individuals or business firms can afford to violate their contracts.

A contemporary remarks that "the United States senate is not popular." Our esteemed contemporary should be more specific. In certain quarters the United States senate is extremely popular. Indeed, it would be difficult to find a more popular

Popular in Certain Quarters. body with some people and organizations. If our contemporary means to say that the United States senate is not popular among the people whom it is supposed to represent and serve, then we acquiesce. But who are the people, that the United States senate should exercise its ingenuity—and conscience—to secure their support and good will? With the trusts and the great corporations the United States senate is very popular, so much so that the senate is filled with their representatives, and the people are utterly ignored. And the people will remain in that condition until they arise in their might and put a stop to corporation elected senators by securing the popular election of senators.

The practice of adulteration, or substitution, has been rather queerly shown by the analysis of an alleged lemon pie offered for sale in a Chicago restaurant. **Adulterating the Very Pies.** The pie came from a big pie factory and was one of several thousand similar pies sold by the factory to Chicago restaurants. Analysis showed that the pie contained neither lemon, butter nor eggs. It was colored with aniline, a chemical acid gave it the necessary sour taste, and the paste was made from starch paste. There was more of the products of coal tar than of vegetable or animal matter in it, and some of the ingredients are poisonous in large doses.

The cattle raisers know that they have not grown wealthy from the sale of their cattle. The employes of the packing houses know that they are underpaid. **Contrary to Common Sense.** The retailers that are forced by every known device to handle only trust prepared dressed meats know that they are not growing rich. The consumers know that they are compelled to pay exorbitant prices for meat. And everybody knows that the men who control the packing trust have piled up fortunes aggregating hundred of millions of dollars. Mr. Garfield says the packers make an average of 99 cents per head on all beef cattle killed. The beef trust has made not less than \$500,000,000 since its establishment. According to Mr. Garfield that presupposes the slaughter of over 500,000,000 beef cattle. Does any sane man believe it?