

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

A great deal of Panama canal work is being done in the salary division.

Republican talk of revising the tariff seems destined to end in adding a tariff to coffee.

Mr. Rockefeller might try making some liberal contributions to the anonymous conscience fund.

Perhaps the public would be willing to pay these congressmen mileage for traveling the other way.

If "grafting" is prevalent in this country the fault lies at the door of people who permit the "grafting."

Secretary Shaw sees a treasury deficit so large that he wants a few new tariff schedules to use as plugs.

It remains to be seen whether that grand jury is as easily handled by the beef trust as Mr. Garfield seems to have been.

The Colorado republican way of seating an executive followed precedent, at any rate. The precedent was set in 1876.

Peace will come very quickly when the Russian grand dukes are compelled to lead reinforcements instead of sending them.

Some Pennsylvanians assert that Kansas is talking to much about oil regulation. But Pennsylvanians have been taking too much.

Senator Platt of Connecticut says tariff revision is a chestnut. It may be, but it is a nut that the g. o. p. must crack very soon.

Having learned from Mr. Garfield's report that it is not making good profits, the beef trust is preparing to give dressed beef prices another boost.

General Sherman Bell has been telling New Yorkers what he would have done had he been given the task of breaking the subway strike. New York laughed.

Addicks has been defeated again, but whether it was because Delaware objected to him on moral grounds or because the Addicks purse did not hold out remains yet to be seen.

The primary pledges are rolling in at a rapid rate. Every new pledge received makes more sure the preservation and ultimate triumph of democratic principles. Are you enlisted?

If this foreign travel epidemic among beef trust employes keeps up the beef trust may find it necessary to go into the ocean passenger steamship business as a matter of economy.

The report that Secretary Shaw and Senator Allison have recently visited New York to consult with some gentlemen concerning tariff revision has a familiar sound. The gentlemen in and about Wall street are the gentlemen who are given the most attentive hearing when a protective tariff schedule is under consideration.

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It is reported in Washington that the accounts of the canal commission have been kept with "great laxness." In private business that kind of laxness often ends in court and winds up at the gates before the big stone house.

Another "get-rich-quick" concern has just made a successful failure. This time Philadelphia was the scene of operations, a city wherein there are numerous "get-rich-quick" concerns operating along political lines without molestation.

The proposition to christen the new battleship Kansas with Kansas crude oil does not meet with the approval of the committee on arrangements. The committee probably feels that enough of oil was used in getting the contract properly placed.

The Wisconsin railroads that have decided to postpone needed improvements until the "anti-railroad agitation" subsidies are giving an interesting imitation of the man who amputated his pro-bosis in order to wreak revenge upon his physiognomy.

Seeing the need of more revenue to make up for republican extravagance, the republican leaders have devised a plan for raising it. If you imagine that they will raise it by putting a tax on those best able to bear it you will have to guess again.

A reader of *The Commoner* asks where he can find a copy of a poem entitled "Kelly, and Burke and Shea," which was written by a man named Clark in 1898. If any reader of *The Commoner* can give the information on a postal card, it will be published for the benefit of the enquirer.

Some of the insurance companies are threatening to leave Arkansas because of the passage of an anti-combination bill. If the people of Arkansas will now establish an insurance department and furnish insurance for their own people at cost, the companies that retire will not be missed.

Governor Hoch of Kansas suggests that the battleship named after his state should be christened with Kansas crude oil, instead of wine. This would be entirely appropriate, for Kansas just now is devoting herself to oil, and if her prohibition law were enforced she would not have much to do with liquor of any kind.

Mr. Jas. B. Forgan, a Chicago banker, in a recent speech at Elgin, Ill., advocated the branch bank system and gave as his reason that during the panic which followed 1893 the reserves increased, but were withdrawn from the correspondent banks and kept in the local banks. Mr. Forgan unconsciously makes an argument against the very system which he advocates. Under the branch bank system the branches would at once be called upon to furnish money for the central bank, and in any financial distress the small communities would be sacrificed to the large centers.

The Washington Post says: "Silver has attained its proper place; that is, it is worth what it will fetch and fetches what it is worth." It is strange that gold standard advocates can be so blind to a plain economic truth as to assume that legislation affects the value of silver but does not affect the value of gold. If gold was demonetized and silver made the only legal tender money, gold would fall as compared with silver, and yet the gold advocates constantly overlook this fact and talk as if silver only had felt the benefit of legislation giving a monetary use to the metal.

The Sioux City minister who asserts that he "would take money from the devil," if offered, and use it to promote religious work, certainly has some queer ideas concerning courtesy, as well as some queer ideas about "religious work." A man who would accept a favor and then turn around and refuse a return favor, to say nothing of tendering thanks, would be accused of lacking the instincts of a gentleman. And if the "devil's money" is good for religious work, why not have churches with saloon, gambling house and social evil adjuncts—three means by which considerable of "devil's money" may be accumulated. Accepting gifts from men like Rockefeller is an offense to thousands of Christian men and women, and the min-

ister who would talk as this Sioux City minister is said to have talked, certainly has forgotten St. Paul's words: "If eating meat maketh my brother to offend, I will eat no meat while the world stands."

Rev. Herbert S. Johnson of the Warren Avenue Baptist church of Boston, in opposing the Rockefeller gift said that his influence upon young men was "a thousand times worse than the influence of a saloon keeper or the proprietor of a den of vice, and that for a church to accept his money would alienate more than ever the great laboring classes from the church." "Laboring men," he says, "care nothing that a business man engages in family prayer if he raises the price of coal during a coal famine."

One of the Boston ministers who favors the acceptance of Mr. Rockefeller's money, says: "I fail to see how Mr. Rockefeller can be considered different from many of the people who visit our churches on Sunday and, perhaps, contribute ill-gotten gain."

Such a statement leads one to wonder whether Mr. Rockefeller, if he visited the church of such a preacher, would hear anything that would lead him to believe that his gains are ill-gotten. Too many of the large churches are made congenial for the large law-breakers by the absence of any reference to the more indirect and more colossal forms of wrong-doing.

The report that the government is about ready to prosecute the Santa Fe for granting illegal rebates to the Colorado Fuel and Iron company is interesting, and will be greeted with cheers when it is demonstrated that it is well founded. There is unimpeachable evidence on file proving that the Santa Fe is guilty, and President Roosevelt can lay his hands on the chief witness without leaving the room when a full meeting of the cabinet is in session. The only difficulty is that the witness in question may take refuge in the plea that his testimony would tend to incriminate himself.

Several state legislatures have this year added to former good work along the lines of discouraging the employment of child labor by raising the age limit from 12 to 14 years. The child labor evil is one of the greatest evils that menace the future of the republic. The child that is forced into a mill, mine or factory is deprived of both education and physical development, thus destroying possibility of future usefulness as a citizen, depriving the child of natural rights and degrading general labor conditions to a lower level. Thoughtful men and women are giving more and more attention to this evil, with the result that conditions are being bettered.

The investigations in the Chadwick case brought out the facts that Mrs. Chadwick was not the only one who violated the law. Nearly every banker with whom she dealt charged her more than the legal rate of interest. In some cases the interest charged was nearly 100 per cent. No wonder there was some hesitancy among her victims about prosecuting her. Her career has shaken the faith of many of the people who in 1896 were asked to believe and really believed that the financiers were the only truly good. Experience has demonstrated that men may prate about honest money without being honest, or even within the law, in their business dealings.

The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch announces that there is an awakening in that state upon the subject of education. A large number of persons deeply concerned for "the uplifting of humanity," as the Times-Dispatch puts it, are going out into the country districts to speak "face to face and heart to heart with the people, and urge them to improve their schools and prolong the school terms." Doctor Alderman, recently chosen as head of the Virginia University, is taking a leading part in the movement. It is fitting that the state which gave Jefferson to the Union, and which contains the state university founded by Jefferson, should interest itself in the education of all of the people. Jefferson contended that universal education was necessary to enable the people to wisely discharge their duties as citizens.