

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Rogers is defending Mr. Rockefeller. "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?"

"I am the state," declared Louis XIV. But that was before the day of Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Morgan.

The managers of those seven Chicago daily newspapers should now engage in a little thinking, if possible.

With Mr. Rockefeller's money talking and Mr. H. H. Rogers eloquent, Standard Oil is having a severe fit of vociferousness.

It is announced that "Mr. Burton will leave the senate." Is there no way of persuading the Kansan to take it with him?

The announcement that the czar has \$360,000,000 in gold coin in his war chest is likely to make Oyama march straight to St. Petersburg.

The primary is the place to decide upon candidates and principles. Sign the primary pledge and get to work in the interests of true democracy.

The gentlemen who are saying such harsh things about the Equitable management are all insiders, so the remarks may be considered official.

"War costs money," declares the Minneapolis Journal. But that is not the chief reason why war should be abolished. War is wrong, needless and foolish.

Germany has notified Uncle Sam that the door is open in Morocco. Uncle Sam will endeavor to see to it that it remains open, even if he has to supply leather hinges.

A great many papers that did not dare say a word of sympathy for the Boers fighting for freedom are whooping it up for the Japanese who are not fighting for freedom.

The cry of "socialism" uttered by the mouthpieces of private monopoly seems to have lost all its terrors for people who are studying the question of municipal ownership.

A man or organization wanting money badly enough to accept it from anybody or anything, usually has no difficulty in framing up an excuse for accepting it when it is offered.

Emperor William assures Morocco that "no other nation" will be allowed to impose upon her. Emperor William is a good grammarian, and doubtless he meant it just that way.

Dr. Lyman Abbott points to the case of Zaccheus as a warrant for receiving money from Mr. Rockefeller. How about the rich man who was advised to sell all he had and give it to the poor?

It is claimed that there is a man in a Wisconsin jail who stole \$100,000 from the Standard Oil company. When he serves his term he will experience no difficulty in getting a job on the museum circuit.

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Organize, and then fight for something worth fighting for, and which will be worth while when it is won.

Mr. H. H. Rogers might be of financial assistance to the "system" by contracting to make that defense on the lecture platforms.

It is not at all probable that when the president comes within gunshot of that bear he will stop and refrain from shooting. The bear is different game from a beef trust or Northern Securities magnate.

Mr. Hyde says the banquet cost \$6,000 and that there was \$24,000 added to the real cost merely to "advertise the Equitable." It will be cheerfully admitted that the advertising paid—the policyholders.

The canal commissioners announce that in their opinion the 8-hour day law does not follow the flag, meaning, of course, that the laborers must work from ten to thirteen hours. It is noticed that the high salaried official with short hours of work always manages to land contemporaneously with the star spangled banner.

J. B. Corry, one of the large operators of Pennsylvania, is quite enthusiastic in his praise of Mr. Rockefeller. He regards Mr. Rockefeller as a great benefactor, and declares that Mr. Rockefeller is using his brain and money to bless his fellowmen. Mr. Corry explains that his company has at various times sold "large amounts of coal to the Standard Oil company." He speaks of Mr. Rockefeller as if he were expecting another order.

The esteemed Sioux City Journal says that "Mr. Bryan is looking for an issue that will be as popular as municipal ownership in Chicago." The esteemed Journal is wrong, as usual. Looking for "popular issues" is copyrighted by the Journal's party. Mr. Bryan and all good democrats are looking for issues that will, if carried into effect, be beneficial to the country. If the Journal can not understand this principle of politics the fault is the Journal's, not Mr. Bryan's.

As Mr. Hyde of the Equitable refuses to sell his stock to the policy holders or to surrender the power which a controlling interest gives him, the policyholders will probably begin action to determine whether the enormous assets held by the company belong to the policyholders or to the holders of the one hundred thousand dollars worth of stock. And what will be the final result? Legislation which will protect the policyholders and not leave them at the mercy of anyone who may get control of the stock.

For genuine frankness a Kansas City dairyman is entitled to the prize, and his example is commended to a number of eminent financiers and "captains of industry." This dairyman was asked why he adulterated the milk he sold and he replied, "Because I want the money." This is much better and more honest than the excuse that Mr. Baer put up, that he was a "trustee of divine providence" and that given by the actions of another financier who tries to make it appear that he is "God's almoner" in the distribution of money. "I want the money" is the honest explanation, even if it does not justify the crooked methods resorted to to obtain it. The financiers and "captains of industry" would do well to admit the real facts, and thus relieve themselves in a measure of some of the blame. The excuses they offer only add to their other sins.

The Genuine Reason

President Stuyvesant Fish of the Illinois Central railroad asserts that "agitation in favor of government regulation" and government interference with private business, "has all blown over." Optimism is all right, when it is the right kind of optimism, but the self-deluded optimist is due sooner or later to a rude awakening. Mr. Fish, in common with many other railroad managers, overlooks the fact that the railroad business of the country is not "private business." The railroads do business by authority of the people, and should be responsible to the people who make it possible for the railroads to do business. The railroad magnate who classes railway traffic with general merchandising or real estate business has studied governmental affairs to poor advantage. And the railroad manager who imagines that the people are soon to cease their demands for fair treatment from the railroads is destined to meet with a bitter disappointment. The people are aroused to a

The People Thoroughly Aroused

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realizing sense of the injustice that has been heaped upon them, and having a clearer knowledge of their rights and of their powers are determined to have all that is due them. Mr. Fish may feel good nursing the idea that the "agitation has all blown over," but a few glances over his shoulder may reveal the fact that the little blow he has just experienced is but a forerunner of the cyclone following fast behind.

The Record, published by the Baptist church at Lincoln, Neb., refers to a conversation between Mr. Moody and a friend. In reply to the remark "my citizenship is in Heaven and I do not take very much interest in the politics of earth," the great evangelist replied, "Well, you had better get it down to earth for the next few weeks." Mr. Moody's rebuke was well deserved. One has a very selfish religion if it leads him to spend his whole thought on the contemplation of heaven, indifferent to the work that lies about him. The citizen has a duty to perform in helping his brother and good government is one of the ways in which he can help his brother.

A Deserved Rebuke

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Investigation into the affairs of the "gas trust" in New York has revealed a queer state of affairs. The Consolidated Gas company buys most of its gas from other companies, paying from 36 to 40 cents per thousand feet for it, and selling it to its own consumers, the city being the largest, at \$1 per thousand feet. Of course the small companies are not losing money, but the Consolidated Gas company pleads that it is not making a profit on its municipal contract and is complaining that its taxes are too high. As the Consolidated receives about 60 cents per thousand feet for pumping through its mains the gas that other companies make and sell at a profit for 38 cents, its contention will not have much weight. But it will show thoughtful men that even municipal ownership in its crudest form could hardly be a heavier burden on the people than the methods used by this arrogant corporation.

Private Ownership Scheme

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The attention of the eminent divines who advise the acceptance of all the money Mr. Rockefeller sees fit to donate for religious work is called to another eminent philanthropist, the Prince of Monte Carlo. The prince has an income of several millions a year, all of it from the gaming tables in his capital city. Ruined homes, lost fortunes, suicide and death follow in the train of the prince's income. And yet he is a very liberal gentleman. Doubtless the ministers who defend the acceptance of Mr. Rockefeller's money would be able to secure a very liberal contribution from the Prince of Monte Carlo if they approached him in the proper spirit. The "Imperial Mexican Lottery," too, would doubtless contribute if called upon. And there are others. If the source of donations is of no moment the missionary boards should have no difficulty in securing liberal donations, provided always that those who accept favors are gentlemanly enough and courteous enough not to criticize the methods of the donors. The world has long held in contempt the man who "bites the hand that feeds him."

Donations That May Be Secured

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Something to Fight For

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