

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

So far nothing but trouble has been dug up in Panama.

To date we have received no report of Fourth of July casualties in the Philippines.

The Wisconsin law compelling periodical distribution of the surplus is a wise one.

Will the loss of that \$20,000 a year "retainer" remind Mr. Depew of a funny story?

The heads of the big insurance companies were strenuous defenders of the nation's honor in 1896.

The Fifth of July dispatches read very much like the casualty reports from a battle in Manchuria.

The reign of graft seems to be about over. The people once aroused can accomplish any needed reform.

How many United States senators are on the pay roll of the great insurance companies? Senator Depew was.

For Sale—A conscience. Apply to those lawyers who for retainers given employ their legal ability in aid of grafters, exploiters and boodlers.

When Joseph Benson Foraker writes his opinion of Lincoln J. Steffens it will make an ordinary fire alarm sound like the ticking of a watch.

The administration is being very much surprised at the appearance of some Panama canal difficulties that the general public was well aware of all along.

If there is any form of larceny that the directors of the Equitable did not practice it may be brought out in the investigation of the New York Life and the Mutual.

That Chicago grand jury went right ahead indicting individuals just as if it were not its duty to let the individuals go and make a bluff at indicting the corporations.

Anxious Reader: Yes, it was twenty-thousand a year that Senator Depew drew from the Equitable. His salary from the New York Life and the Mutual is not yet known.

The old saying that "you have to die to beat the insurance company" is out of date. Many eminent gentlemen have been beating the insurance companies while still in the flesh.

President Hadley was so pleased at the opportunity to announce a million dollar gift from Mr. Rockefeller that he forgot to mention his little plan of curing the trust evil by socially ostracizing the trust magnates.

Secretary Shaw is now quite sanguine that if he can collect more money than the government spends during the next twelve months the deficit at the end of the next fiscal year will be materially reduced. The secretary is rapidly depriving General Grosvenor of his reputation as the champion "figgerer."

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The czar's attention is called to the fact that "A republic is the strongest form of government because," according to Bancroft, "discarding the implements of terror it dares to build its citadel in the hearts of men."

How is Paul Morton going to cinch any individual members of the Equitable ring? He is the personification of the idea that in order to punish the criminal member of a corporation the corporation must be fined.

If Mayor Dunne ever feels discouraged because of the obstacles thrown in the way of municipal ownership let him remember that the victory is great in proportion to the difficulties surmounted.

A contemporary says that "the known Rockefeller gifts now amount to \$51,272,666." Does our contemporary mean to insinuate that there have been some Rockefeller donations without brass band accompaniment?

The democrats of Ohio have gone into the campaign with an excellent platform and with a ticket as good as the platform. Pattison was one of the insurance presidents who did not try to coerce their policy holders in 1896.

President Roosevelt is very anxious to know why the Chicago grand jury has not done more in the beef trust case. Probably for the same reason that the man who went gunning for ducks with a brass band came home without a feather.

Noting that *The Commoner* says, "The woods are full of wide-awake democrats," the Sioux City Journal asks: "Why don't they come out?" What, come out now and let a lot of grafters protected by the administration swipe all their nice new summer clothes?

Washington city policemen have been warned not to engage in conversation with "coachmen, footmen or other like menials." Very often the only difference between one of these "menials" and a senator or other public official is that the "menial" earns his money.

It must be mortifying to Senator Hill to have the public know that his Equitable retainer was only one-fourth as great as that paid to Senator Depew. It might be interesting to know whether Senator Hill was drawing that salary when he was opposing the income tax in the senate.

The police of Philadelphia made a raid on lawless parts of the city and among the four or five hundred prisoners arrested were many men and women supposed to be respectable. Some of the women begged to be allowed to kill themselves rather than face disgrace—and they must have known the wages of sin.

The newspapers are full of advertisements of stock in various speculative enterprises. The *Commoner* does not accept such advertisements because it does not care to assume responsibility for the disappointments which are likely to follow. No stock ought to be bought without careful investigation and then a change in management may be fatal.

Yale college has accepted a million dollar donation from John D. Rockefeller. Now listen and see whether the professors of Yale college single out the Standard Oil trust as an illustration of the evils of private monopoly. And yet the extortion practiced by the oil trust is so great that Mr. Rockefeller could with his unearned profits, subsidize all the colleges in the country in a few years.

If the stockholders of the Equitable have a right to control the company it might be a good plan for the state of New York to buy a majority of the stock and run it as a state company and limiting new risks to citizens of that state. A state company could furnish insurance at actual cost and not only save the people an enormous sum in premiums, but give policy holders absolute security.

Paul Morton announces that Senator Depew will no longer draw the \$20,000 per year that has been paid to him in the past. What did he do to earn the salary? Surely the expense account needs overhauling when the genial Chauncey drew four times as much for doing nothing as the United States paid him as senator for doing—harm. How would it do to publish the salary list of the Equitable, Mr. Morton?

The czar may yet have to call on the Japs to subdue those mutinous Russian sailors.

"Spades should be trumps on the Panama canal," declares the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*. Has the presence of so many tricks in the canal zone impelled the *Globe-Democrat* to speak of cards?

The *Commoner's* exchange list is one of the largest in the country, and it is therefore a manifest impossibility to scan thoroughly all the newspapers reaching this office. Editors are asked which they think may be of interest to the readers to mark any articles appearing in their columns of *The Commoner*.

The London bank manager, who managed to sequester a paltry \$250,000, has gone to prison for twenty years. He made two grave mistakes. The first was in not engaging in the business in America. The second was in not sequestering a million or more if determined to engage in that sort of thing.

The Chicago *Record-Herald* regrets that a man who has made a record for so much good diplomatic work as Mr. Bowen should come to such a "miserable end." Other government employes should take warning by the Bowen incident, and when they see their superiors grafting just keep as mum about it as possible.

The New York *World* spends the time between campaigns denouncing the eminent gentlemen whom it so cordially and enthusiastically praises about the time the same conventions are to be called and candidates nominated. The *World* seems determined to permanently transfer its comic section to its editorial page.

And now they are discussing whether a cabinet officer can live on his salary. Well, if more of our cabinet officers tried to live on their salary provided by law they would understand better the difficulty that the majority of the wealth producers find in living on their income. When government salaries are made too high, those who draw them get out of touch and out of sympathy with the common people.

President Roosevelt, in his speech at the reunion of his class at Harvard, entered a protest against the increasing expense account of the students. He argued for more economy and democracy. He is right. The college boy who spends money liberally not only separates himself from the best students, but is likely to spend in pleasure seeking the time he should spend in study. The president's advice was wholesome.

The Lincoln (Nebraska) *Journal* recently said "Nothing makes anarchists so fast as unequal justice. Whenever two men steal and one is sent to jail while the other is through personal influence readmitted to polite society, one or more anarchists are made." The *Journal* then proceeded to demand the punishment of Alexander, Hyde, et al. But what has it to say now that the strong arm of the administration has protected Paul Morton from prosecution?

The New York *Times* is very much alarmed for fear a railroad regulation law might fall into the hands of a president unfriendly to the railroads. It says that the business men might be "apprehensive enough even if they were confident that Mr. Roosevelt would continue to be president for an indefinite number of years," but it becomes frantic at the thought that some one else, and worst of all a democrat, might be elected. Just think of it! And yet it may be necessary to elect a democrat to carry out the democratic ideas that have added so much to Mr. Roosevelt's popularity.

The Western *Christian Advocate* quotes a "learned judge," as saying that "only as the principles of Christianity shall prevail in the minds and hearts of men, and in society at large, can there be any adjustment of public rights in the present industrial and commercial competition." While legislation can not be delayed until an application of Christian principles removes the trusts from our midst, still there is no doubt that the commandment "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" furnishes the rule for the ultimate solution of all economic problems.