

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

Gotham is finding some interesting topics in town these days.

Concerning yellow fever, it is better to perfect the sanitation before than after.

When the people control the primaries the corporations can not control the elections.

Up to date Secretary Taft has made no effort to keep down the lid of the Japanese tea urn.

The Depew Improvement company seems to have failed to get in its work on its promotors.

It takes something more than indictments to keep the price of meat within reasonable bounds.

It seems that those peace commissioners will find it easy to eat their way to a mutual understanding.

The democratic party shows gratifying indications of a determination to get democratic and stay democratic this time.

The trouble with the Equitable seems to have been altogether too many "receivers" at the wrong end of the premium route.

However, we have yet to hear of the big express companies complaining that Uncle Tom Platt's public life has been a failure.

Governor Pennypacker want to sell his library of 15,000 volumes, but this must not be taken that he knows all there is in the books.

There might be more effort to obliterate graft in the government departments were it possible for its discoverers to forget the fate of Mr. Bowen.

When we come to think it over, are the graft exposures that are astonishing the people any worse than the democracy has been stating it since 1896?

The dirt removed to make graves for fever victims in the canal zone continues to keep several thousand cubic feet ahead of the dirt removed from the canal.

T. Sufferin Tailor of Newport gave James Hazen Hyde a dinner recently. That is cheering news. The suffering public have been feeding him long enough.

It will be too bad if Japan becomes seized of the notion that the soldiers of Russia are a type of white-skinned soldiers of the whole world—too bad for Japan.

The Nebraska state democratic convention is called to meet at Lincoln, September 20, to nominate a candidate for justice of the supreme court and two regents of the state university.

By holding up the June bills until July—June being the last month of the fiscal year—Secretary Shaw managed to hold the annual deficit down to \$24,000,000, according to the books. But book-keepers of that kind often find themselves called up on the carpet.

Some of the "fads" of those society people seem not to have struck the "fancy" of the people who foot the bills.

It is given out from Washington that hereafter diplomats must avoid even the semblance of scandal. Can it be possible that the supply of whitewash is running short?

Missouri had her Folk, Wisconsin her La-Follette, Philadelphia her Weaver—and the growth in the Pattison sentiment indicates that Ohio intends to profit by their example.

After one week of strenuous life in the cabinet Mr. Root is off for a month's vacation. The sacrifices some people have to make in order to serve their country are very touching.

And as for taunting the senate about Mitchell of Oregon, just remember that the senate didn't choose him—Milwaukee Sentinel. And Mitchell isn't the only one of the same kind, either.

The Milwaukee Sentinel wants Mr. Depew to explain how he earned that \$20,000 retainer from the Equitable. Is the Sentinel joking, or does it expect Mr. Depew to perform the impossible?

In the meanwhile Mr. Thomas F. Ryan is letting his appointees do all the talking about reforming the management of the Equitable, while he is merely owning and controlling the Equitable.

What does it matter whether they are genuine bones of the genuine John Paul Jones? Even if they are not genuine no one has heard either John or the real owner kick about the honors paid them.

Mr. A. Sato, it must be admitted, is making an excellent buffer between Baron Komura and the ubiquitous reporters. The American newspaper that secures the services of Mr. Sato will have a star.

The mere fact that Japan alone knew what she could do against Russia is evidence enough that Japan is not at all inclined to buy any Philippine gold bricks.

Perhaps those newspapers that are trying to ridicule Lawson have an idea that in that way they may prevail upon Mr. Rockefeller to beat Mr. Carnegie's educational pension scheme with one for subservient newspaper writers.

The Sweden-Norway method of settlement of international troubles will never be satisfactory to the manufacturers of arms and ammunition, but it will be immensely pleasing to those who would have to bear arms if war should be resorted to.

The eminent gentlemen who were quite sure that Governor Folk could not put a stop to race track gambling have since made the acquaintance of a governor who has a queer fad for enforcing the law. They are of a different opinion now.

If the postal authorities are in earnest in their expressed desire to reduce the postal deficit, let them compel the railroads to transport the mails at a reasonable price. That is where the deficit finds its origin.

The Kansas City Journal objects to Governor Folk on what it calls the grounds that he "enforces the law with all the stage thunder and orchestra effects possible." But there are those who will believe that the Journal could have stated its real objection just as well by omitting all after the word "law."

The railroads furnish the express companies cars and carry the express on a percentage basis. The government pays from 75 to 125 per cent rental for postal cars and then pays the railroads about eight times as much for transporting the mails as they receive for hauling the express. Puzzle: Find the cause of the deficit in the P. O. D.

The esteemed Washington Post's attention is called to the fact that The Commoner never intimated that our retention of the Philippines was profitable to the government. But our retention of the islands is profitable to the exploiters and carpetbaggers, for while the government foots all the bills the aforesaid exploiters and carpetbaggers get all the revenue.

A number of people who are praising Mr. Shonts for providing recreation and amusement for canal employes seem to forget that there are several million employes right here in the United States who have no clubs, no gymnasiums, no bathing facilities and no golf grounds.

During the three years ending January 1, 1905, the value of beef cattle in the United States declined \$165,000,000, and during the same period the price of dressed beef advanced 40 per cent. This is another one of the many glaring facts that Mr. Garfield forgot to mention.

There is one satisfaction about this exposure of graft in high places—it will greatly lessen the number of estimable gentlemen who will step into the limelight during the next campaign and talk glibly about "national honor," "sound money," and "preserving the nation's integrity." A huge section of that particular bunch of eminent gentlemen has been sadly discredited of late.

A year or two ago Senator Beveridge was writing for the Saturday Evening Post a series of articles on "Russia's Advance." After comparing the prophecies made by the senator from Indiana with the facts as they have developed, one

instinctively recalls to mind Josh Billings' famous remark to the effect that "it iz better not tu kno so mutch than to kno so mutch that ain't so." The advance Russia has made has borne a wonderful resemblance to the advance of the crab, which crustacean always progresses backwards. If Senator Beveridge will now write an article or two on the outcome as a contrast for his former articles, the scrap book of the future will not only be interesting, but in this particular connection will be very amusing.

China announces that she will recognize no agreement between Russia and Japan concerning

Manchuria in which she has not been consulted beforehand. This would be of much more importance if China were able to enforce her desires in this matter. As the matter now stands China will have nothing to say about it, and her only hope lies in the land greed of the European nations. This may sound paradoxical, but investigation will demonstrate its truth. Failure to agree upon a division, coupled with the attitude of the United States, is all that has prevented the partition of the celestial empire for a decade. And even triumphant Japan will hardly undertake to antagonize all of the European powers by claiming too much Chinese territory. It would seem that China's future depended in large measure upon how she acts on the example set by her neighbor, Japan. When one begins pondering on what might happen if China should awaken and make in the next fifty years the same advance that Japan has made during the last fifty years, one finds himself on the edge of an unlimited field for speculation.

Almar Sato, who appears to be spokesman for Baron Komura, declares that Japan would not accept the Philippines as a gift from the United States. It is difficult to understand why Japan should refuse, because Uncle Sam has found it

a most convenient place wherein to permanently invest his money. Immediately after the islands were thrown into his lap by Providence, Uncle Sam invested \$20,000,000 therein. And every month since he has been investing from two to five million dollars in those islands. And Uncle Sam does not worry about the investment getting away from him. He knows right where the money is all the time. He has no fear of any venal cashier skipping out and taking the investment to some unknown quarter of the globe. No indeed! Uncle Sam knows that his Philippine investment is not only safe beyond all danger of being stolen from him, but he knows that it is a permanent investment. And he has invested much more than money in the Philippines. He has invested hundred upon hundred of lives of his nephews until the archipelago is one vast graveyard. If Japan is looking for a permanent investment she could not do better than to secure from Providence a gift like the Philippines. When she does she will find surcease from all worry about making permanent investments. Her money will go in huge chunks, and it will go to stay.