

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

Mr. Depew is home again, but there is a sad dearth of funny stories.

Poor Chauncey, he has a great lot of new stories but they are not as funny as the old ones.

People are speculating upon what passed between Kaiser Wilhelm and King Christian. Would it be safe to guess that it was made of glass?

It is said that Baron Komuri brought eighty trunks from Japan, and it may be that each one contains a different item in Japan's demand upon Russia.

It looks as if a few of the ambitious Wall street spectators would have to ask to be made defendants in the Equitable or lose their financial standing.

There are some eminent railroad gentlemen in Wisconsin who could give Mr. Fish some important pointers on Governor LaFollette's method of making the railroads tote fair.

The people are hoping that there will be more leaks developed in the government departments, and that a lot of grafters will drop out through the leaks.

The fact that young Hyde is being received at Newport with open arms would indicate that financial crookedness is almost equal to a divorce as a pass-port to high society there.

In looking over the list of the men who are being sued for the mismanagement of the Equitable it is noticeable that about all the democrats included belong to the "safe and sane" variety.

Noting the marks made by Uncle Sam's eye-teeth when he cut them on the Philippine gold brick, Japan declares she would not accept the archipelago as a gift. We have often been saved trouble by noticing the other fellow's teeth marks.

The czar intimates that he will sacrifice every subject he has before he will submit to a disgraceful peace. By sacrificing a few grand dukes he will be able to conclude other satisfactory things than a graceful peace.

The railroads have turned about \$20,000 into the federal treasury as fines for having violated the twenty-eight hour transit law. Let it be noted that they "turned in" that amount—the shippers furnished the money in the shape of extortionate rates.

A religious newspaper commends Mr. Rockefeller for turning the other cheek with Christian humiliation. That's all right, but the trouble is that every time Mr. Rockefeller turns his cheek he sees something in the new direction and proceeds to gobble it up.

The men who fought for the preservation of a republic in South Africa have reason to think a few warm thoughts when they read in administration newspapers laudations for the administration for preserving strict neutrality in the Russo-Japanese scrap.

The Baptist Chautauqua at Springfield, Ill., tabled a resolution to condemn Governor La Fol-

lette for his criticism of Rockefeller. Good for the Baptists! They can not afford to shoulder the sins of the oil magnate merely because he has decided to afflict that church with his membership.

The press dispatches thus describe James Hazen Hyde's bow: "He bends his body forward in a graceful curve and seizes the hand of his friend or acquaintance firmly." In only shows the force of habit. He accustomed himself to bending low and seizing firmly when he was reaching for Equitable trust funds.

Professor Mathews, of the Chicago university, belittles home training and says that morality should be taught in the schools like algebra. Morality should be taught everywhere but the best teaching is by example and the subsidized professors who applaud the criminal methods of the trust magnates are not setting a very good example.

A Chicago preacher advises Mayor Dunne to "drop" the traction matter (which the preacher says is too much for him) and devote himself to something else. Has the minister any stock in the franchise corporations or is he serving the street car magnates for nothing? Dunne will carry out the verdict of the people for municipal ownership.

The Sioux City Journal is very much exercised because The Commoner referred to the secretary of state as "the constitutional successor to the president in case of the latter's death," and gives the more or less startling information that the vice-president is the constitutional successor. The word "constitutional" was, of course, inadvertently used. As the Journal reminds us, the vice president is "the constitutional successor," while the secretary of state is first in the line of succession as provided by statute.

The interesting story comes to the effect that James Hazen Hyde once yearned to represent this republic as ambassador to France, and that he submitted with his application to President Roosevelt the recommendation of such eminent states-

men as Chauncey Depew, Benjamin Odell, James Alexander, Mr. Harriman, and others. It is further reported that after looking Hazen over the president remarked: "This man won't do." This is very interesting, and the president's reputation as a judge of human nature would be enormously enhanced thereby were it not for a remembrance of the Morton incident, the Loomis incident, and several other incidents. It has since transpired that Hyde would not do, but it also transpired that Morton would not do—although the latter was appointed and served for a time, and left with a letter of recommendation surpassing anything in that line ever furnished by an occupant of the white house.

"We all try to show the best side," remarked Mr. Rockefeller recently. What Mr. Rockefeller

says is very true, but it is extremely difficult for some people to show any good side. And there are those who do not show the good side because they want to do so, but because they want to hide a very bad side. It is the disposition that leads one to put an ornamental front on his house, and a tight board fence along the alley to shut off the view of the back porch and garbage can. There is a very bad side to the Standard Oil company, and he must be a cheerful and forgiving individual indeed who would claim that its chief manager's philanthropy were efforts to show the best side instead of efforts to conceal the very bad side. It is evident that the recent disclosures and charges have stung Mr. Rockefeller. There is a deal of philosophy in the utterance of the villager who exclaimed, "I'm not caring a bit how much people lie about me, but when they begin telling the truth I'm going to take measures to stop it." It is the truth that hurts.

Mr. Sergius Witte, who will represent Russia at the peace conference, is neither talking nor acting like the representative of a defeated nation. On the contrary, he comes to America with every evidence of being determined to show that Russia

is not yet whipped, and that although the job on hand is a delicate and arduous one, he is preparing to accomplish it to the best of his ability. This is very commendable in Mr. Witte, but it is also an indication that peace may yet be a long

ways off. It is true that Japanese arms have triumphed, and that the czar is sadly handicapped by internal strife in his realms, but it must be remembered that long centuries of absolute obedience to the "little father" means that millions of men will starve and fight and die at his command. Russia is in a bad way, but it must be borne in mind that Russia can hold out longer under these adverse conditions than almost any other nation could under similar circumstances.

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