

# The Commoner

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The sideboard adjunct of the U. S. A. needs an amputation.

Mr. Morgan has the Bacon; does the rest of the country get the rind?

Democratic victory in 1906 and 1908 can be assured right now. Organization is the watchword.

The railroads know what causes the deficit in the postal department, but it does not worry them a bit.

The proposition to reduce the deficit by putting a tax on coffee is peculiarly republican. The rich can drink wine.

The trouble with Mr. Rockefeller is that he does not go barefooted when he walks upon his would-be competitors.

The landlords at Portsmouth may be entitled to some of the credit for the early securing of a peace agreement.

President Roosevelt ceased his search for some means of cutting red tape long enough to cut a little Bacon for Mr. Morgan.

There are still others connected with the Equitable who could win applause by imitating Chauncey M. Depew in a certain way.

Perhaps that riot in Tokio was nothing more than the Japs being jostled together upon the settling back of the island when Mr. Taft stepped off.

New York mail drivers are on strike, and this may suggest something to the gentleman who forgot to mail the letter his wife gave him to post.

The anthracite coal trust has hoisted the price another notch—not by divine right but by right of purchase. The campaign contribution was ample.

Secretary Shaw has been delegate hunting in the south. He will breathe easier when he knows for certain that the trip has not been Algerized.

Japan was wise enough not to pay any bonus for a lot of unwilling subjects. The Japanese have long had a habit of profiting by American experience.

The strangest feature of the government printing office squabble is that Mr. Cortelyou has not been mentioned in connection with Mr. Palmer's position.

Dr. Salmon has been "canned." The canning industry should not, however, stop with this much progress in the governmental departments at Washington.

Henry Watterson says that first class men can not afford to go to congress for \$5,000 a year. What Mr. Watterson means is that first class men are not enough sought after for congressional positions paying \$5,000 per year.

Perhaps all those Japanese riots are merely part of a grandstand play to make Russians believe that Russia got the best of it. The Japs are awfully cute.

Doubtless Emperor William's press agent has been notified that it is high time he performed something calculated to attract the world's gaze from Washington, D. C.

If Norway should discover that she is able to get along without a king several members of royal families will have to either go to work or ask for larger pensions.

"The crux" of the peace treaty seems to have split into two pieces, one lodging in St. Petersburg and the other in Tokio, both doing some damage when they struck.

A lot of western republicans are quite sure that the corn crop will be a good party campaign argument if the administration will only hold off the frost for about two weeks.

Mr. Rockefeller is wearing a wig. In this Mr. Rockefeller has the advantage of a number of men whom he has scalped. They have nothing left with which to purchase wigs.

Despite the great American public's delight over the conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan it is believed that most of them looked for a San Francisco date line on September 10.

Peace having been declared Senator Beveridge may resume his prophecies about the march of Russia. But the senator will probably reverse some of his former Russian prophecies.

Something is wrong in the literary world. The Russo-Japanese peace treaty has been effective for two weeks and Field Marshal Murat Halstead is not yet ready with a history of the war.

The announcement that Addicks is out of the senatorial running in Delaware would be productive of more rejoicing were it not for the added announcement that Allee is in it more than ever.

Being unable to keep an engagement to deliver a Labor Day address at Kansas City, Mr. Lawson sent the committee a check for \$1,000. If money talks that was an eloquent Labor Day address.

The appointment of Mr. Bacon to be assistant secretary of state only emphasizes the porkish propensities of the gentlemen who are engaged in exploiting the South American republics.

The press humorists in session at Cleveland adjourned for an automobile tour of Mr. Rockefeller's grounds. This was not the first time Mr. Rockefeller helped the humorists pass away the time.

The fault with the government printing office is not so much the inability of a \$4,500 a year man to conduct it successfully as it is the difficulty to keep congress from making it even more of a money loser.

With a surplus of \$20,000,000 at the close of his first administration, President Palma of Cuba was unanimously re-nominated. This is calculated to make Secretary Shaw sit up and take notice of his \$24,000,000 deficit.

When Senator Elkins gets ready to submit the results of his investigation of the railroad rate question the country will be properly surprised to learn that Senator Elkins is quite certain that the present system is all right.

"What is the democratic party going to do?" queries the Washington Post. What it believes to be right, of course. However, this line of policy will be subject to the Post's criticism until it finds it convenient to commend it because of democratic success.

"Our present prosperity has been built up under the Dingley law," declares Representative McCleary. If it hadn't been for the Dingley law the rains would not have fallen upon western farms, neither would the sun have beamed upon them. And if the tariff which makes wool dear and woolen goods cheap had not operated retroactively and prospectively, of course times would be hard.

"The great American novel" has long been promised, but seems to have been delayed. But is there any objection to awarding the palm for the greatest bit of American fiction to the G. O. P. managers who still insist that their party will reform the tariff in the interests of the people?

The Sioux City Journal gravely announces that "The typhothetae decided in effect that the striking printers may take their choice between a nine-hour work day and a twenty-four-hour day for loafing." It looks as if the printers would finally compromise on an eight-hour work day. The printers have long been leaders in the compromise and arbitration idea.

The birds are gathering for their annual migration, and will soon be traveling southward in immense flocks. Man has made some wonderful strides in knowledge during the last one hundred years, but for more than a century he has been trying to answer his own question, "Why do birds migrate?" and he is no nearer the answer today than he was when he first propounded it. He only knows that the birds do migrate, and that they may be expected to leave about a certain time and return about a certain time. The bird is a mystery. When man can explain to his own satisfaction just how birds fly and just why they migrate he will be excused for feeling puffed up over his newly acquired knowledge.

The newspaper humorist is irrepressible. He sees humor in any old thing, and sacred indeed must that thing be which he will not turn to advantage in rhyme or joke. He met numerously in Cleveland, Ohio, recently, as the American Press Humorists' convention. Then he visited John D. Rockefeller and made that gentleman an honorary member of the association. It was a joke—a subtle joke. Mr. Rockefeller, whose sense of humor has not even reached the protoplasm stage, as a member of an association of newspaper humorists—well, he may have failed to see the point of some of the press paragraphers' jokes, but here is one with a point so sharp and yet so apparent that those too blind to see it can not help feeling it when it comes time to light the evening lamp.

Once more our "trade" with South America is to be investigated. This merely means that some one is going to receive a fat salary and lucious expenses for investigating something that is as plain as a pikestaff to every thoughtful and observant man in the country. We have little or no trade with South America for the very simple reason that we demand of South America that she buy from us at our prices while we refuse to buy of her at any price. We insist that South America look pleasant when we throw all sorts of restrictions around her goods when they reach our ports of entry. Being unable to sell to us South America refuses to buy of us. There is the situation in a nutshell. What is the use of spending \$50,000 or \$75,000 on an investigation whose results are already discounted by present knowledge. Has President McKinley's Buffalo speech been forgotten so soon by the republican party?

For pure and unadulterated optimism commend us to the always blindly partisan St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The treasury deficit for August was upwards of \$4,000,000, but what of that? The excess of receipts over expenditures during the first ten days of September was \$1,200,000. Of course the rule is to pay bills monthly, but what of that. For ten days the government has been taking in more money than it paid out, and the optimistic Globe-Democrat rejoices. What's the use of considering the "bills payable" until the end of the month? The workingman who makes \$2 a day buys a suit of \$10 clothes in the morning and has it charged. At night he gets his \$2. His cash income has been just \$2 more than his cash outgo. Hurrah for prosperity! What's the use of worrying about the clothing bill until it is presented and payment demanded? Let us rejoice that the government for ten days has been taking in more money than it paid out. When the end of the month comes and the bills are presented—well, that is time enough to worry about the deficit. Let us rejoice and be glad during the remainder of the month between now and the dawn of the 30th.