

Commoner Comment.

PLAN OF THE REORGANIZERS.

The Brooklyn Eagle, one of the recognized organs of the reorganizers, becomes more and more frank in its statements relating to the purposes of the program adopted by these reorganizers. The Eagle says:

"Those democrats who oppose Bryan and who advocate the reconstruction of democracy with Bryanism expunged, are about to carry that issue into the south and west. The reorganizers' battle grounds will be the state of Nebraska, where Mr. Bryan still retains, nominally, at least, the control of the machinery of his party."

"It is proposed to crush Mr. Bryan's influence in his own state and to prevent at all costs his control of the Nebraska delegation to the next democratic national convention."

The Eagle explains that "this plan is not only essential, but feasible. In order that Kansas City platform democrats may understand the organized effort to drive them out of the organization and to make the democratic party so much like the republican party that the difference will be in name only, it will be interesting to read what the Eagle has to say concerning the work now under way by the reorganizers. The Eagle explains that:

"Mr. Hill's is the executive mind in the scheme of reorganization. For more than a year that skillful politician has been building up an anti-Bryan, conservative, sound money machine in the democratic party of the east to be used as the nucleus of the general reorganization movement planned for next year. Mr. Cleveland gave substance to the project in June, 1902, by appearing on the same platform with Mr. Hill at the Tilden club in this city. Mr. Gorman met Mr. Hill at Saratoga in September and Mr. Oney met him in New York in January, both acquiescing in his plans. New England, New York, New Jersey and Maryland, having together ninety-three votes in the electoral college, were thus in alliance against Bryan at the moment he arrived in New York with his defiance of the Hill-Cleveland faction. In all of the combinations by which democratic victories have been figured in the past, Maryland has been allotted safe, and New York, New Jersey and Connecticut fighting ground. Next in importance is Indiana. That state has been promised to Hill by ex-Mayor Taggart of Indianapolis."

"Powerful as this combination undoubtedly is, it lacks one element in the democratic national convention. It is Mr. Hill's hope, if not his expectation, that most of the delegates from the south will desert Bryan's cause. To give the way for a high percentage Mr. Hill has been in communication with prominent gold democrats of North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. His resistances are generally known to nobody but Mr. Hill. It is asserted, however, on authority close to Mr. Hill, that every one of the states named has been pledged to support his policy of reorganization. Texas leading. To make this substantial inroad into the solid south it has been necessary to concede the vice presidential nomination to the south, assuming, to begin with, that the nominee for president will be chosen from New York."

"Mr. Hill and his associates are convinced that the south will in the end respond favorably to appeals made through its financial and business institutions. They concede that Mr. Bryan is strong with the rank and file of the southern voters, but they believe that the most influential of the southern leaders are against him. The deal in the work of a few months in the hands of Chief Judge Alton B. Parker of New York, which has been adroitly pressed in several of the southern states, has done much, it is claimed, to weaken the sentimental hold which Bryan had upon that section in 1896 and 1900."

In the same article, the Eagle says that a desperate effort is to be made to carry Illinois to the reorganizers, while a vigorous fight is also to be made on Tom Johnson in Ohio. "The reorganizers believe," says the Eagle, "that they can make a clean sweep of the states of the middle west if they are able to first demonstrate their effective anti-Bryan alliance exists between the east and the south." The Eagle says that Mr. Hill has been in correspondence with a number of "democratic" Nebraska and that he has determined upon a serious effort to prevent the Kansas City platform democrats in that state from obtaining representation in the national convention.

Referring to Mr. Bryan, the Eagle says that "he will not be permitted to remain in the democracy as a focus for future dissensions. The brightest men of the party have decided to get him out without mercy." And then outlining the platform of 1904, if these reorganizers secure control of the national convention, the Eagle says:

"With the disappearance of Bryan, the nucleus of the reorganizers' national platform of 1896 and 1900 will also disappear and the democracy will be free to proceed with reconstruction on lines acceptable to eastern leaders and to the commercial and financial interests of the country."

The Eagle explains: "It goes without saying that the platform of 1904 adopted under these altered circumstances will uphold sound money, deal respectfully with the courts and exclude socialism. Whatever declarations it may contain with respect to the tariff, the Philippines and the internal policy of the country will undoubtedly be determined by the reorganizers."

Attorney General Knox now has a fund of \$500,000 with which not to prosecute the trusts any more than is necessary for campaign purposes.

Under what theory of republican government is it proper to tax the people in order to raise money to lend back to the people through favored banks?

"What shall Cuba do for us?" plaintively asks the New York Tribune. The Tribune doubtless thinks Cuba should do as much as it can without asking anything in return.

The legislature of Nebraska has refused to pass a bill providing for equal taxation of the bill being bitterly opposed by the railroad corporations. The man who cannot guess the political complexion of the Nebraska legislature with his eyes shut doubtless would swim a river to get at his bath-tub.

A St. Louis federal judge has enjoined a lot of railroad employees from striking for better wages. The employees might find a federal judge willing to enjoin railroad managers from refusing to pay a fair rate of wage. We say "might" because we entertain grave and serious doubts about it.

THE TRUE POSITION

FIGURES DISPROVE CLAIMS MADE BY REPUBLICANS.

Facts Show Just How Much Truth There is in the Boasts of Politicians About the Great "Balance of Trade" in Our Favor.

Statistics of the Brooklyn Bridge show that an average of about 20,000 more people cross the Brooklyn Bridge each day than cross back to Brooklyn. These statistics indicate that Brooklyn is losing and New York gaining in population at the rate of 7,000,000,000 a year. Sensible men know that there is no such daily balance of population in favor of or against New York—according to whichever political theory you accept. Somehow and in some way, about as many people return to Brooklyn daily as leave it.

Similarly, Republicans are prating about the great "balance of trade" in our favor, amounting to from \$400,000,000 to \$600,000,000 a year for six years, and are attempting to make the people believe that it is a good thing to be coming out of the country each year, this much more than is being brought in. Sensible men shake their heads and refuse to swallow these figures. The trade and commercial figures, like the Iron Age and the New York Commercial, are now discussing the "invisible" balance of trade, which punctures both the facts and theories of the politicians.

The following table is from the Iron Age of Feb. 26:

Invisible (Adverse) Balance of Trade.	
Interest balance	\$30,000,000
Freight balance	\$2,000,000
Tariffs	\$2,000,000
Exports	\$20,000,000
Rent balance	\$2,000,000
Money sent by resident foreigners	10,000,000
Total	\$58,000,000

As the Iron Age says, this table "shows that the invisible balance of trade must run annually at not much less than \$50,000,000 to enable this country to discharge its foreign liabilities." The return, last year, of \$100,000,000 of American securities held abroad wiped out all of the remaining visible balance of trade in 1902, says the Iron Age, which concludes that "the United States is still a debtor nation."

At least two very important factors have been omitted by the Iron Age. Our imports of dutiable goods amount to \$500,000,000 a year. These are undervalued to about 10 per cent, or \$50,000,000. We export manufactured goods valued at more than \$400,000,000 a year. As these goods are sold to foreigners at an average of 20 per cent below domestic prices, the manufacturers quote fictitious valuations to government officials. It is safe to say that our exports of manufactures are overvalued 10 or 15 per cent, or an average of \$50,000,000 a year. Adding these two amounts to our nearly invisible and adverse balance, we have wiped out nearly all of the visible balance in our favor even during the last six years. Undoubtedly the return of securities during these years has wiped out any remaining balance. This reaches the sensible conclusion that we have not outstanding accounts with foreign countries amounting to \$2,000,000,000 or \$3,000,000,000, as the Iron Age says, each year's apparent balance is about squared. While we may be slowly paying our foreign debts, yet it takes more than \$100,000,000 a year to pay interest and rents to foreigners. Thus, if the invisible balance of trade is not \$100,000,000 in our favor we are losing ground and getting deeper in debt.

BYRON W. HOLT.

THE POLICY OF SUPPRESSION.

Lodge's Committee a Graveyard for Facts About Philippine Questioned.

Among the names signed to the series of petitions calling for an investigation into conditions in the Philippines, presented to the Senate during the last month by Senator Hoar, are the names of fifty-seven presidents of colleges and four hundred professors. An examination of this list of signatories shows the following representation from forty-two different educational institutions:

Stanford University, Cal.	47
Amherst College, Mass.	29
Harvard University, Mass.	26
Columbia University, N. Y.	22
Tufts College, Mass.	22
Smith College, Mass.	22
University of Wisconsin	22
Cornell University, N. Y.	17
University of Chicago	17
Yale University, Conn.	16
Princeton University, N. J.	15
Washington University, Mo.	14
University of Michigan	14
Northwestern University, Ill.	19
University of Pennsylvania	19
Oberlin College, Ohio	9
John Hopkins University, Md.	7
University of Indiana	7
University of California	7
University of Illinois	7
Pratt Institute, N. Y.	6
Tulane University, La.	5
Syracuse University, N. Y.	5
Ohio State University	5
Wesleyan University, Conn.	5
Western Reserve University, Ohio	5
Brown University, R. I.	4
University of New York	4
Lehigh University, Pa.	4
Haverford College, Pa.	3
William's College, Mass.	3
Dartmouth College, N. H.	2
Vanderbilt University, Tenn.	2
Bryn Mawr College, Pa.	2
Central University, Ia.	2
Swarthmore College, Pa.	2
Franklin & Marshall College, Pa.	1
Woonester University, Ohio	1
Albany Medical College, N. Y.	1
Ethical School, N. Y.	1
Institute of Technology, Mass.	1
Bates College, Me.	1

If an uncollected-for surplus were not collected by outrageous and unjust taxation there would be no need of lending government money to favored banks on chips and shavings for the purpose of giving the people an opportunity to borrow at heavy interest.

The telegraph informs us that the island of Guam has been raised six inches by an earthquake shock. The interesting feature of this bit of news is that it lends encouragement to the hope that some time republican policies may be able to do more than a mere contemplation of financial gain.

While the Oklahoma legislature is amending the rules of "seven-up" the people should set about amending the rules of the trust game of "clinch."

The holiday habit is growing so rapidly that we may confidently expect those who still believe that the foreigner pays the tax to ask that April 1 be made a legal holiday.

Those democrats who have spent the last eight or ten years voting the republican ticket will not have a great deal to say as to who shall or shall not have seats in the democratic national convention of 1904.

WASTE PUBLIC MONEY

RECENT CONGRESS RECKLESS IN ITS EXPENDITURES.

More Than \$1,500,000,000 Appropriated During the Session Just Closed—Danger in the Accumulation of a Gigantic "Surplus."

The Congress which has just adjourned appropriated over \$1,500,000,000 from the national treasury for the support of the government for two years. This is twice the amount expended by the government ten years ago.

It is a vast increase over the government expenses during the Spanish war. It is more than four times as much as was expended during the civil war, when the cost of the armies in the field was a million dollars a day.

When Speaker Reed was reproached with the fact that the Congress in which he was "czar" was "a billion dollar Congress" he replied that "this is a billion dollar country." It might now be described as a country of billion-dollar trusts.

This rate of public expenditure can not go on forever. Under the apparently illimitable prosperity of the country there lurks always the danger of panic disaster and bankruptcy. If this condition shall be precipitated it will be caused mainly by the fact that the money of the people is being withdrawn from the uses of legitimate business by the enormous accumulations of hundreds of millions of dollars as "surplus" in the national treasury.

If the powers that be are wise they will take no step before the storm comes, but there do not appear to be any signs at present that this prudent policy will be adopted.

Butler's Rights Calmly Ignored.

The calm and deliberate manner in which the House of Representatives last "chewed up" Mr. Butler of Missouri, who has been serving as a member during this session of Congress, will serve as a caution to reckless Democrats elected by a narrow majority of 7,000 who seek to break into the Republican house of representatives with only a certificate of election as their credentials. How grand and strenuous is the grand old party! How irrealistic is its power when it gets its grasping irons on a defeated brother and drags him from under the avalanche of Democratic votes and lands him safely on the floor of the house! And how helpless the poor devil of a Democrat is with only his certificate of election from the governor of his state, based upon a majority of 6,400, when the Republican house wants his seat for a Republican brother on the outside!

Influences That Debauch.

Fully 90 per cent of all that is dishonest, all that is corrupt and all that is menacing to free institutions in municipal and state government can be traced directly to the influence of the public corporations upon local politics. They not only debauch city and state governments, but it is their consistent policy to maintain these governments in a state of prostitution—their influence is cast habitually against all decency and efficiency and integrity in public affairs. The sentiment of municipal ownership is grounded almost wholly in the belief that the people have no other means of protecting themselves against the rapacity and criminal greed of quasi-public corporations. They are not flying to municipal ownership, but are being driven to it as a last desperate measure.

Campaign Pledges Repudiated.

Senators and representatives indorsed the pledge of the President that Cuban reciprocity should be passed. Republican state platforms declared in favor of it. Next to the promises of anti-trust legislation there was no pledge more general or universal than that one that Cuban reciprocity should be enacted this winter. Having won the election on that promise what has been the performance? When the treaty was sent to the Senate it was kept sedulously in the rear until the statehood force presented a shallow excuse for letting it expire. There have been more glaring individual cases of the repudiation of campaign pledges, but there have been few in which the bad faith assumed so wide a national character.

The Devouring Steel Trust.

The steel trust continues to show signs of a deliberate and comprehensive policy of absorption of all other concerns in the same line of business which are of much importance. Needless to say, its purchases will have to be made at very high prices, and its policy will lead bold and ambitious men to establish new iron and steel mills for the purpose of selling them to the big trust at a fat profit. If this sort of thing goes far enough there will be grave trouble ahead for the greatest of the industrial combinations.

Phipps and American Labor.

Henry Phipps, who rolled up a fortune in connection with the starvation wages long paid by the Carnegie company, is playing Prince Magnifico in the far East.

While poverty stalks the regions where his corporation subdued a strike with guns he has given the governor general of India a large fraction of a million dollars to be used in developing that portion of the British empire.

Never was there a more conspicuous violation of the proverb that charity should begin at home.

Phipps was shrewd enough to collect his interest, however, in advance. Special attentions to Phipps as a guest at the governor general's recent dinner secured the donation of a fortune got out of the sweat and starvation of American labor.

Rotten Boroughs in the Senate.

Speaking of rotten borough representation in Congress, what's the matter with Delaware? With a measly 185,000 inhabitants so corrupt that even "Gas" Addicks owns and uses them like cattle, it sends to Washington two Senators to do his bidding. Addicks' great strength, outside of his money, was the knowledge that his

OVER THE TELEPHONE

MANY AND VARIED ARE THE MES-SAGES SENT.

It rescues girls from undesirable callers, aids in reuniting parted lovers, and has numberless other recommendations.

We have become so used to including the telephone among the comforts of home that it is doubtful now if we really appreciate all of its advantages. The telephone is more than an instrument over which to talk to the butcher and baker, it is a medium sometimes for furthering treason and strategem and acquiring spoils.

Does a young woman receive a call from a masculine friend who bores her to extinction and she be impatient, she gives her brother or sister, or, as legal documents say, her next friend, a look of entreaty, and directly he disappears, and almost immediately the telephone rings and the young woman is summoned, and comes back to say that her grandmother is ill in the next block and she must go to her at once.

When the visitor has departed the rescued one thanks her rescuer warmly and adds a blessing for the telephone itself, such is the intensity of her gratitude.

Sometimes the telephone saves the self-respect of young men who have quarreled with their sweethearts. To go back to pay a visit, after he has hung himself upon a house declaring he will never darken its doors again, would not be consistent with any masculine dignity, but it cannot be considered as a confession that he was in error in his premises if he call up the young woman who has insulted him by telephone the next day but one, and asks her in a voice made carefully frigid any one of the following questions:

Have I any books of yours which you wish me to return?
How shall I send your letters back, by mail or by messenger?
Will it incommode you at all if I send to your house to-night for my copy of Omar?
Did I injure the glass in your front door when I shut it night before last? I am afraid I used almost too much emphasis.

Do you still wish me to take you to the theater, or shall I send you the tickets and allow you to select your own escort?
If the young woman replies with proper tact, diplomatic relations will be resumed in a shorter time than it takes to write a letter, for it is to one the young man is in the drug store on the nearest corner, although his voice sounds as far away as the polar icebergs.

It is a mighty good thing, by-the-by, that that invention has never been perfected that was once talked of and that was designed to permit the users of telephones to see each other while conversing, for not only would this be inconvenient to the men who declare they are in their offices, when in reality they are at the club engaging in the great American game, but also would it be exceedingly disagreeable to the young woman who holds conversations over the wire with the man who admires her most with her golden hair hanging down her back and wearing her bathrobe, for such things are, imagine the feelings of the youth who expects to take a girl to dinner at 7:30 o'clock, when she is clad like the lilies of the field, calling her up an hour before this time, only to behold her with an aureole of curl papers around her head and a dab of powder on her sweet nose!

This is purely a fancy picture, for curl papers are as much out of date as crinoline, and powder went out with the fashion of wearing the hair in queues; but, just for argument's sake, try to imagine such a contretemps.

Would it not break up many a promising affair of the heart's?

To return to our motto, the telephone is a most valuable invention. It reunites loving hearts and it furnishes reasons for jealousy to lovers who need prodding, and excuses to those who wish to get away from bores—but it is great enough as it is, and we do not want any improvements with it in the line of machinery, except in the corners. We have troubles enough already, and too much knowledge doesn't add to any one's happiness.—Baltimore News.

Love and the Telegraph.

Clarence Manuel lost a bride through a Western Union telegraph operator's mistake. Manuel was engaged to be married to Miss Margie Bryant of Jeffersonville, and in January of last year he telegraphed her to meet him in Louisville.

The telegram read "Nashville" and Miss Bryant went there. When she did not find Manuel she lost her temper, declared their engagement off and has since refused to listen to his explanation.

Manuel sued the telegraph company for damages, but Judge Field dismissed his case yesterday, holding that unless the importance of correct transmission is impressed upon the company's agents no recovery can be had.—The North American.

The Detective Was Detected.

The home detective had the floor.

"Yes," he replied, proudly, "we broke into more than forty private houses just to show them how easy it was."

The visiting constable expected to enter an introductory manner.

"Like us out in Cripple Gulch in the early '80s," he remarked, "people got so keener going about without their weapons that we had to hit a couple dozen on the head with a pole ax just as a warning to the others. Yes, sirree!"

A smile passed over the home detective's face. This was promptly shadowed by an uneasy look in plain clothes.

"What did you say you would take?" he asked, with unexpected acumen.—New York Sun.

Needed More Than One.

Ethelred's remark was not the custom to wear the engagement ring on only the third finger of one's left hand.

Clara—So do I. I can't get more than half the engagement rings on at one time now.



Judge Grosscup's Decision Unsatisfactory to Attorney General Knox.